

JPRS-TEN-94-027
18 November 1994



**FOREIGN
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JPRS Report

Environmental Issues

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Environmental Issues

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CONTENTS

18 November 1994

INTERNATIONAL

Government To Pay To Ship Toxic Waste to Finland	1
Russia Withdraws Objection to Whaling Sanctuary	1
Germany Removes Toxic Pesticides From Northern Region	1
Kola Peninsula Joins Scandinavian Radiation Safety Scheme	2

AFRICA

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Involvement Needed for Sustainable Development To Succeed	3
Zimbabwe, Zambia To Increase Efforts To Control Poaching	3
Roundup of Environmental Reports	3

SOUTH AFRICA

Water Affairs Minister Opposed to Toxic Waste Imports	4
Environment Minister Repeats: No Importation of Toxic Waste	4
Armcor Proposes Weapons Disposal Facility	4
North West Premier Addresses Ecotourism Symposium	5

ZIMBABWE

President Mugabe Calls for Farming in Okavango Delta	5
--	---

CHINA

Beijing Calls for Cooperation in Environment, Development	6
Tiger Bone Medicines Destroyed; Investigation Continues	6
PRC Nature Preservation Area Regulations	6
Atomic Energy Official on Radioactive Waste Disposal	11
Environmental Protection Inspection Launched	11
Beijing Revises Environment Protection Law	12
Official Views Procedures for Handling Nuclear Waste	12
Preparation To Implement International Antidesertification Treaty	12
Three-Year Plan To Clean Up Huaihe River Announced	13

EAST ASIA

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Ministers Agree To Improve Environmental Cooperation	14
--	----

INDONESIA

Jakarta Wants Equal Treatment in Wood Labelling	14
---	----

JAPAN

Asian NGO's To Discuss Environment Network	14
Diet Members Ready To Join Campaign To Protect Forests	14
Agency Reports Antarctic Ozone Hole Widens to Record Size	14

SOUTH KOREA

Delegation To Attend November CITES Meeting in Florida	15
--	----

TAIWAN

New Registration of Rhino Horns, Tiger Products Announced	15
Legislature Passes Amendments to Wildlife Conservation Law	15
Li Sends Message to Taipei Pollution Conference	16

LATIN AMERICA

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Southern Cone Environmental Issues Through 27 October	17
Southern Cone Environmental Issues Through 3 November	18
Seminar Aim: Regional Maritime Safety, Pollution Code	19

BRAZIL

Businessmen Preparing To Adjust to Environmental Standards	19
Adoption of Environmental Standards Viewed	19

ECUADOR

Oil Spills Harming Ecology of Amazon Region	21
---	----

PANAMA

Foreign Ministry To Ask U.S. To 'Decontaminate' Bases	21
---	----

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Tunisia, Israel Agree To Cooperate on Environment	22
---	----

ISRAEL

Minister Sarid Leaves for Environment Conference in Tunisia	22
---	----

CENTRAL EURASIA

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Minister Notes River Pollution in Lithuania, Latvia	23
Vilnius Embassy Issues Statement on Nuclear Station Talks	23

RUSSIA

Komi Oil Spill	23
Ministry Calls Oil Spill 'Extremely Dangerous'	23
Ministries Say Komi Authorities Underestimate Oil Spill	24
Komi Appeals to 'Northern Forum' for Help With Oil Spill	24
Special Commission To Present True Data on Oil Spill	24
Emergencies Ministry Says Media Exaggerates Komi Oil Spill	25
Further on Komi Oil Spill Commission Report	25
Komi Commission says Oil Spill not 'Ecological Disaster'	25
Minister Explains Lack of Information on Oil Spill	26
Spokesman Says Oil Spill 'Dangerous Ecological Situation'	26
Ecologists Say Oil Spill Got Into Pechora River.	27

Moscow To Use Satellites To Observe Komi Oil Spill	27
Initial Figures on Komi Oil Spill Disputed	27
U.S. Experts To Visit Site of Oil Spill in Komi	28
Nenets To Ask Western Firms To Help Prevent Spread of Oil Spill	28
Komi Oil Company Tried To Cover Up Pipeline Spill	28
Komi Leader: No Outside Help Needed With Oil Spill	29
Commission Says Komi Oil Spill Not Environmental Disaster	29
Komi Government Blames U.S. Interests for Fuss Over Spill	29
Pechora Basin Endangered by Usinsk Oil Spill	30
Shoygu: Oil Spill 'Curbed'; Total Spilled 14,033 Tonnes	30
Updated Figures on Oil Spill Expected in Three Weeks	30
'Soviet System' Blamed for Komi Oil Spill	31
Civil Defense Minister Shoygu on Komi Oil Spill	32
Oil Spill Said Blown Up by U.S. as New Facts Come to Light	32
U.S. Company Involvement in Oil Spill 'Racket' Denied	33
Komi Authorities Acted Slowly To Avoid 'Social Explosion'	33
U.S. Governor, Company Chiefs Arrive To Inspect Oil Spill	33
Administration Head on Alaskan Visitor, Oil Spill Cleanup	33
Nordec Experts Say 103,000 Tonnes of Oil Leaked in Komi	34
Komi Oil Spill Commission Findings Questioned	34
Komi Oil Spill To Be Cleared When Frozen By 'Winter Frosts'	35
Komi Republic Denies Greenpeace Claims of New Oil Spill	35
Komi Pipeline Said 'Full of Holes'; Oil Constantly Leaking	36
Proposed Space AES Would Beam Energy to Earth by Laser	36
Results of Sunken Sub's Inspection Viewed	36
Toxic Waste Processing Plant Planned for St. Petersburg	37
Greenpeace on 'Ecological Danger' of Russian Nuclear Fleet	38
Destruction of Chemical Weapons on Schedule 'Doubtful'	38
Ecological Control Points Monitor Railroad Operations	38
Scientists Invent Method to Clean Up Radioactive Waste	39

ESTONIA

Tarand Holds News Conference on Environmental Achievements	40
--	----

LATVIA

World Bank To Lend Funds for Environment Protection	40
---	----

UKRAINE

Green Party Emerging as President Kuchma's Opposition	40
---	----

UZBEKISTAN

Official Reports on Ecological Situation	41
--	----

WEST EUROPE

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

EU CO ₂ Tax Being 'Quietly Buried'	44
---	----

Government To Pay To Ship Toxic Waste to Finland

*FL0211221894 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network
in English 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Health Dr. the Honorable Ivy Dumont announced today that the cleanup exercise at the former Owens Illinois sugar mill site, in southern Abaco, has started. Dr. Dumont also stated that the site will be cleaned up by the end of December: [begin Dumont recording]

Dumont: It is very gratifying that the company would be kind enough to agree to a 50-50 split of the costs to get the cleanup done and, in addition, to assist in locating a suitable company to do the work. Now, the company that is doing the work is known as ENSI, Inc., based in New York, and the total cost of this project will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$370,000. [end recording]

The government is being assisted in cleaning up the site by the former owner of the sugar mill, Owens Illinois. Manager of Environmental Affairs of Owens Illinois, Inc., Mr. Robert (Towel) said the company was pleased to give its assistance: [begin (Towel) recording]

(Towel): Work has begun at the site last Monday and will continue through the month of November. Hopefully, we will be finished removing all of the materials, repackaging and removing all of the materials by the end of the month for shipment to Finland. I believe that the close cooperation of all of the people that were involved will allow the resolution of this to occur very rapidly here and for the benefit of the citizens of Abaco and the Bahamas. [end recording]

The government is expected to spend \$370,000 to clean up toxic waste and other harmful materials from the site. Some of the waste will be packaged and shipped to Finland for disposal.

Russia Withdraws Objection to Whaling Sanctuary

*OW0111121794 Tokyo KYODO in English
1139 GMT 1 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 1 KYODO—Russia has withdrawn an official objection it lodged in September against an international whaling sanctuary in Antarctic waters, conservationist organization sources said Tuesday [1 November].

The sources said the International Whaling Commission (IWC) will shortly notify its members of the decision.

On May 27, an IWC meeting in Mexico voted to bar all commercial whalers from the Antarctic south of 40 degrees south latitude and in some areas below the 60th parallel, effectively ending any chances Japan had for continuing commercial whaling.

IWC member countries could lodge objections to the sanctuary plan within 90 days after adoption.

Russia lodged an official objection to the sanctuary plan in September, reversing its original stand supporting the sanctuary plan.

Norway, which resumed commercial whaling in 1993, maintains that the sanctuary has no scientific basis and infringes the international whaling convention, but it has not lodged an objection.

Japan, which was the only IWC member country to veto the sanctuary plan, is therefore the only country with an objection lodged with the IWC. It lodged an appeal in late August.

The international conservationist organization Greenpeace said in September that Russia's original support for the sanctuary reflected the opinion of the Russian Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, but that the country's fishery officials eventually prevailed.

But in October, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a document supporting the sanctuary, the sources said.

An official at the fishery division in Japan's Foreign Ministry said the ministry has not officially confirmed the Russian withdrawal of its protest.

The official said the decision could reflect a global tendency to transfer responsibility for whaling within governments to those sectors concerned with the environment.

Germany Removes Toxic Pesticides From Northern Region

*AU2810220194 Paris AFP in English
2151 GMT 28 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, Oct 28 (AFP)—Germany has completed the removal of 460 tonnes of toxic pesticides shipped to Albania by a German firm, the German ambassador here said Friday [28 October], after an outcry over the health hazard posed by the chemicals.

The pesticides were originally delivered as humanitarian aid in 1991 and early 1992 by a Hanover-based firm, but were already past their 1988 use-by date when they arrived and their condition rapidly deteriorated.

Germany had originally refused to accept responsibility for removing the pesticides—which included cancer-causing chemicals, mercury, phosphorous, organic chlorine and dioxin—but backed down under pressure from the Albanian government and the Greenpeace environmental organisation.

German ambassador to Tirana, Klaus Voellers, put the cost of the removal operation—which started in September—at \$6 million.

"We were not required by law to repatriate the pesticides, but we did it for humanitarian reasons," Voellers said.

German experts placed the toxic chemicals in containers and transported them by truck to the Albanian port of Durres before shipping the containers to Hamburg, in northern Germany, chief expert Thomas Hauthal said.

Bonn is sensitive to claims that German firms have been dumping toxic waste in poor East European and Asian states to by-pass strict German laws which involve costly hi-tech methods of waste disposal.

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Kola Peninsula Joins Scandinavian Radiation Safety Scheme

*MM2110093994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Oct 94 Weekend Edition p 14*

[Report by Yevgeniy Pisarev: "North Without Radiation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Soon the Kola Peninsula will be included in the unified radiation safety system operating on Scandinavian territory.

Two years ago the leaders of the Finnish province of Lapland and of Murmansk Oblast signed a treaty on the free transfer of technical facilities to the Russian neighbors. Sensors are already installed in seven population center of the Kola Peninsula: Lovozero, Monchegorsk, Kandalaksha, Kovdor, Nikel, Murmansk, and Polyarnyye Zori. From here information will go to Murmansk and then to a computer center in Helsinki.

The Kola inspectorate for supervising radiation safety has received the right to issue licenses for work with radioactive substances.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Involvement Needed for Sustainable Development To Succeed

MB2110163194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1523 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Harare Oct 21 SAPA—The second Southern African Conference on Environmental Management which ended at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on Friday resolved that all people should be involved in development activities to ensure the success of sustainable development, ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] NEWS AGENCY reports.

Speakers at the three-day conference said that unless the welfare of people was improved, some environmental projects would fail. The poor in particular tended to be the hardest hit by environmental degradation and were the least well-equipped to protect themselves. But it also emerged that the poor caused a great deal of damage to the environment due to short-term necessity, ignorance and lack of resources.

A recurrent theme throughout the conference was that the 1992 Earth Summit had succeeded in making the world aware of the urgency to achieve environmentally sustainable development. This could be achieved through promoting environmental education, marshalling financial and technical support for environmentally friendly projects, demanding accountability for industrial operations and pooling together regional resources.

Zimbabwe, Zambia To Increase Efforts To Control Poaching

MB2910161594 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1500 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zimbabwean and Zambian security chiefs have pledged to increase cooperation to stop poachers killing elephant and rhino. Meeting in Harare under the auspices of a joint commission on defense, the officials said they were pleased with measures taken by both countries to stop cross-border poaching, smuggling, theft of cars, and drug trafficking.

A statement issued after the meeting between the Zimbabwean and Zambian defense and interior ministers said the commission had decided to increase cooperation in the field of wildlife protection, particularly with regard to rhino and elephant, by stopping poachers along their common border.

Roundup of Environmental Reports

AB1011131994

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of recent environmental reports monitored from media in FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas from 24 October to 7 November. Source information follows in parentheses after each item.

Cote d'Ivoire

The inhabitants of Akouedo village have demonstrated their disgust at the poor management of the garbage dump in their village. They accuse ASH International, which specializes in waste treatment, of dumping garbage on the public highway rather than in the proper sites meant for this purpose. This causes bad smell, infantile sicknesses, and a surge in mortality rate for the youth and elderly. The village chief, who was contacted this morning by a Radio Cote d'Ivoire reporter Mangle, did not hide his concern over the future of this village which, according to him, has lost all its sturdy people. A young inhabitant who was interviewed about the deplorable condition claimed that life expectancy of Akouedo residents has fallen as a result of the garbage situation. (Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 1900 GMT 7 Nov 94)

Kenya

The government will not support any moves to legalize international trade in ivory. Addressing a press conference today, Kenya Wildlife Service director, Dr. David Western, further announced that the government will destroy another three tonnes of ivory. Debate on the protection of the elephant and legalization of trade in elephant products is heating up ahead of the 7 November convention on international trade in endangered species meeting to be held in Florida, United States of America.

Western stated: Kenya firmly believes that the greatest single threat to the ivory ban and to the hope of any legitimate trade in the future is the huge stockpile of ivory around the continent. Now, at the moment, that amounts to somewhere in the region of over 500 tonnes stockpiled within government warehouses. There is a great deal more than that which is stockpiled underground by poachers. This is adding a tremendous momentum to lift the ivory trade prematurely, and it is in the light of that momentum, that expectation, that we in Kenya wish to announce that we intend to destroy all our existing stockpiles of ivory. (Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Oct 94)

Nigeria

Over 300 erosion sites have been identified in Akwa Ibom state. A survey by the State Environmental Protection Agency shows that the sites are spreading. The report says over 2,000 persons have been displaced from their homes while many farmlands and public buildings have been swallowed by the erosion. The erosion has equally affected basic infrastructure like roads, water pipes, and electric poles. The Akwa Ibom State administrator has told the director general of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency that over 5 billion naira was required to effectively control the devastation of the erosion. He added that the state government was doing everything possible to curb the menace and appealed to the Federal Government to urgently come in with assistance before the situation gets out of hand. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94)

Water hyacinth in Nigeria's waterways has been having serious repercussions on the economic and social activities

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of communities in riverine areas. The weed has covered portions of the ocean, seas, and rivers, especially in Lagos, Rivers, Cross River, Delta, Ogun, Osun, Imo, Abia, Anambra, and Benue states. The weed has affected water transportation, sometimes causing boat mishaps resulting in deaths of many. A number of ships have anchored on the high seas because of the presence of the weed. Furthermore, the weed constitutes an unsightly picture near the beaches, destroying their natural beauties, with possible adverse effects on tourism. The secretary of the National Committee on Water Hyacinth Control recently warned at a news briefing that the weed might constitute a threat to the Kainji dam and called for urgent concerted action. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94)

Zaire

The environment minister met with the United Nations Development Program head of mission in the country on 24 October to discuss ways of checking environmental degradation in Nord and Sud Kivu following the huge influx of Rwandan refugees to the area. Deforestation in the area has reached alarming proportions, and the Virunga National Park and other tourist sites have been destroyed. Moreover, improper disposal of waste has led to an outbreak of epidemics. Five or six projects will be formulated to aid environmental protection in Nord and Sud Kivu. (Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94)

SOUTH AFRICA

Water Affairs Minister Opposed to Toxic Waste Imports

MB1910185494 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1711 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Oct 19 SAPA—Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal was opposed to toxic waste imports in principle, he said on Wednesday [19 October].

This is what he would tell the Department of Environment Affairs when consulted by it on the question of toxic waste imports and exports, he said in a statement.

"Quite apart from having an objection in principle to such imports, from a practical point of view I have enough problems already with the control of toxic waste generated domestically ... We do not wish in any way to add to our problem."

His department was responsible for pollution control insofar as it concerned the country's water resources. "In this we bear a particularly heavy responsibility towards the public, many of whom are desperately short of clean, safe water." Toxic waste posed dangers when handled, transported or deposited.

Earlier on Wednesday, Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said South Africa would never be allowed to become a dumping site for toxic waste from other countries. This, he said, had been "stated categorically on a number of occasions".

Mr Asmal said Dr de Villiers was responsible for the import and export of hazardous waste in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act. "That minister's department has indicated that there will be wide consultation with interested parties on this issue, of which my department is one. Whenever consulted, my view shall be as stated above."

Environment Minister Repeats: No Importation of Toxic Waste

MB2110191594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1811 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Oct 21 SAPA—Environment and Tourism Minister Dr. Dawie de Villiers reiterated on Friday that he would not allow the importation of toxic waste into South Africa. Dr de Villiers said in a statement "speculations in this regard are therefore devoid of all truth. South Africa will under no circumstances become the dumping place of the world's toxic waste".

Dr de Villiers was referring to media reports which "created the impression" that South Africa was about to allow the importation of toxic waste into this country. "There is presently a ban on the importation of hazardous and other waste for the purpose of destruction or final disposal in South Africa and the situation has not changed", the statement said.

Armcor Proposes Weapons Disposal Facility

MB2910090394 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 28 Oct-3 Nov p 2

[Report by Eddie Koch]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armcor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] proposes to build a site in a remote part of the Northern Cape where the military—local and foreign—can dispose of old weapons, bombs and explosives. One European state has expressed interest in exporting obsolete war material to South Africa.

The suggested import of explosives will fuel the controversy over proposals by the Department of Environment Affairs to relax a ban on imports of toxic waste—and may breach the Basel Convention which prohibits the export of hazardous materials "for final disposal" from European countries to African states.

The proposed site, at a gunnery testing base called Alkantpan in an arid area near Prieska, is part of Armcor's efforts to privatise its operations. "We have to improve business and have conducted a study to see what would happen if we expanded the destruction of explosives there by three or four times," said an Armcor official.

The plan was unveiled when army chief General Georg Meiring visited Alkantpan along with Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils and a delegation of military officers a few weeks ago. Armcor officials stress the project is still in its planning stages.

The facility is used to test and develop artillery for the G6 cannon and the army uses it to destroy old weapons and explosives. The Armcor study, conducted by experts,

concluded these operations could be expanded without danger to human health or the environment.

Demand for a land-based facility to destroy explosives is expected to increase worldwide as most member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have, in terms of the London Dumping Convention, agreed to stop dumping obsolete bombs and weapons at sea by the end of 1995.

Armcor officials say Swiss authorities have expressed interest in exporting old explosives to the site if it is built—although the feasibility study was conducted at Armcor's request.

Department of Environment Affairs officials say, however, that plans to import explosives for disposal on South Africa soil are likely to breach the Basel Convention.

This month Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers published a White Paper which outlines a strict set of regulations for the management of hazardous and toxic materials. The paper—designed to promote public discussion about waste management—contains a proposal to create a "subregion" in the country where limited amounts of hazardous materials can be imported. This clause has provoked a storm of protesting government and environmental circles.

Willem Scott, deputy director for pollution control at Environment Affairs, says the department was consulted about the proposed plan to build an explosives disposal site. But it was unlikely that imports would be sanctioned by the government as it is likely to breach the Basel Convention.

Armcor spokesman Bertus Cillier said the proposed explosives demolition site was motivated by the fact that the South African military will have to, by the end of next year, cease dumping explosives and weapons at sea.

Cillier said the Swiss government had expressed interest in using the site but added: "Any utilisation at Alkantpan by any foreign government will be a matter for the cabinet to decide."

De Villiers this week said South Africa would "under no circumstances" become the dumping ground of other countries' toxic waste. His department would not allow the import of wastes which are "poisonous to humans and other living organisms."

His statement left open the possibility of importing hazardous wastes "which can be recycled or recovered into useful products and which do not pose a threat to man or the environment when handled properly and with good technology."

The Swiss ambassador in South Africa, Roland Wermuth, said informal discussions have taken place between the Swiss Ministry of Defence and Armcor but added that his country was examining other options, including the possibility of disposing ammunition in Switzerland.

North West Premier Addresses Ecotourism Symposium

*MB3110135294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1317 GMT 31 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mmabatho Oct 31 SAPA—African governments had to develop an articulated approach to deal with environmental issues so as not to be sidelined by developed countries, North West Premier Popo Molefe told an ecotourism symposium in the province on Monday.

"Environmental issues are currently capturing the attention of the world but we must admit that most of these issues have little bearing on those that concern us on the African continent. Consequently when the developed countries of the world debate environmental issues, very little or no reference is made to the African continent and its problems," he said.

ZIMBABWE

President Mugabe Calls for Farming in Okavango Delta

*MB2010150794 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 20 Oct 94 p 1*

[Report by Michael Moon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Victoria Falls—Agriculture and irrigation schemes should be established in Botswana's Okavango delta, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe said yesterday. Addressing the Southern African Environmental Management Conference, he suggested to Botswana President Quett Masire that they embark on a joint campaign to grow wheat, rice and other crops in the delta, while preserving the area's wildlife and natural resources.

The Okavango was a vast resource but, by and large, it sustained only animal species. It could not be used for irrigation schemes for the betterment of the people of Botswana because of pressure from environmentalists. Environmental protection groups had been over rigorous in their campaigns and often put "nature before the needs of human beings." The Okavango should not be allowed to die as a nature resource. "But must humans suffer to preserve other species? Must the people of Botswana continue to lack water while they are looking at it in the Okavango?"

He said non-governmental organisations were among those opposed to water schemes in Botswana and warned such organisations in Zimbabwe that they would have to keep in step with government development schemes. Zimbabwe needed to gain more power capacity and might have to look to the Zambezi River for more hydroelectric power generation. If a new dam was built, there would inevitably be environmental destruction, but it was necessary to ensure a minimum impact on people, plants and animals.

Beijing Calls for Cooperation in Environment, Development*OW2110002694 Beijing XINHUA in English
2014 GMT 20 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, October 20 (XINHUA)—The international community should continue to enhance cooperation regarding environment and development, Chinese delegate Yang Yanyi said here today.

Yang was speaking at the second committee of the UN General Assembly, during its discussion on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the protection of global climate; and the sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas.

Yang noted that though a great deal has been done in implementing the resolutions of UNCED, various negative factors still seriously constrain the developing countries' effort to achieve the goals of economic development and environmental protection. The developing countries continue to be subject to the great pressures of poverty and unequal trade, and the commitments made by the developed countries at UNCED regarding financing and technology transfer are far from being realized.

The international community should continue to enhance cooperation regarding environment and development, and the developed countries in particular need to take practical measures for this purpose, she said.

On the relations between environment and trade, Yang warned that using the establishment of "environmental standards" as new trade barriers to attain the goal of protectionism is not only harmful to global trade and development, but also very detrimental to the fundamental solution to the environmental question.

Yang said that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which went into effect on March 21 this year, is an important step of the international community to work jointly in dealing with climate change. By defining common but differentiated responsibilities, the convention asks for the developed country parties to stabilize in the year 2000 their discharge of greenhouse gases at the level prevailing in 1990.

"We do not approve of any attempt designed to make the developing countries also accept concrete restrictive targets through amending the convention or carrying out negotiations on new protocols," she said, for such efforts prejudice against the legal basis of the convention in apportioning responsibilities to the various parties.

The Chinese delegate also noted that further negotiations are needed on a UN document on straddling and highly-migratory fish stocks, which aims to promote sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas.

Tiger Bone Medicines Destroyed; Investigation Continues*OW2810091194 Beijing XINHUA in English
0822 GMT 28 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 28 (XINHUA)—China has recently destroyed a patch of illegal Chinese medicines which were claimed containing tiger bone ingredients, a wildlife protection official said here today. [sentence as received]

The official said that the Ministry of Forestry also called for continued efforts to crack down on any activities violating the central government's ban of trade in rhinoceros horns and tiger bones, or the use of the animal parts in traditional Chinese medicines.

According to the official, the 577 boxes of musk pain-killer plasters, whose inside labels claim containing tiger bone ingredients, were confiscated by forestry department officials in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region as the medicines were being shipped to Fujian and Guangdong provinces.

The seized medicines, valued at 500,000 yuan (57,000 U.S. dollars), were destroyed on September 2 in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The medicines were produced by a pharmaceutical factory in Chongqing, southwest China, or Chongqing traditional Chinese medicines factory.

The official described the action as a major effort following China's public destruction of illegal rhinoceros horns and tiger bones earlier this year in Guangdong and Heilongjiang provinces.

Last year, China officially banned the trade in rhinoceros horns and tiger bones, or the use of them in traditional Chinese medicines. Medicines which claim containing the animal parts are also considered illegal.

Forestry officials said the investigation and handling of the case is still going on, and those involved in the production and shipping of the illegal medicines will be dealt with.

PRC Nature Preservation Area Regulations*OW2010112294 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service
in Chinese 2110 GMT 15 Oct 94*

["PRC Regulations Governing Nature Preservation Areas"—XINHUA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 15 Oct (XINHUA)—

Chapter I. General Principles

Article 1. These regulations are formulated to strengthen the building and management of nature preservation areas and to protect the natural environment and resources.

Article 2. Nature preservation areas as referred to in these regulations are areas—on land, on waters on land, or on the sea—with definite acreage designated according to law for special protection and management, where representative natural ecological systems or rare and endangered wildlife species naturally concentrate or spread out, and

where natural remains with special significance and other objects to be protected are located.

Article 3. These regulations must be abided by all nature preservation areas built and managed within PRC territory and coastal waters under PRC jurisdiction.

Article 4. The state adopts economic and technology policies and measures conducive to the development of nature preservation areas, and incorporates the development program of nature preservation areas into the national economic and social development program.

Article 5. Relations between building and managing nature preservation areas and the economic construction, production, and people's life in the localities where the nature preservation areas are located should be properly handled.

Article 6. Nature preservation area management organs or administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas may accept donations from organizations and individuals at home and abroad for the construction and management of nature preservation areas.

Article 7. People's governments at or above the county level should strengthen leadership over work concerning nature preservation areas.

All units and individuals have the obligation to protect the natural environment and resources in nature preservation areas, and have the right to report or sue units and individuals who damage or encroach on nature preservation areas.

Article 8. The state adopts a management system that combines overall management with departmental management for the management of nature preservation areas.

The State Council's administrative department in charge of environmental protection is responsible for the overall management of all of the country's nature preservation areas.

The State Council's forestry, agriculture, geology and mineral resources, water resources, oceanic affairs, and other concerned administrative departments are in charge of nature preservation areas within their respective authority and responsibility.

The establishment and responsibility of departments of local people's governments at or above the county level responsible for management of nature preservation areas are to be decided in the light of local situations by the local provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government.

Article 9. Units and individuals who have made noticeable contributions to the construction and management of nature preservation areas or to scientific research in relevant fields are to be awarded by a people's government.

Chapter II. Construction of Nature Preservation Areas

Article 10. Areas that meet any one of the following conditions should be established as nature preservation areas:

- (1) Typical natural geographical areas, representative natural ecological system areas, and similar natural ecological system areas that have been damaged but that can be restored with protection efforts;
- (2) Areas where rare and endangered wildlife species naturally concentrate or spread out;
- (3) Coastal waters, coastlines, islands, wetlands, inland waters, forests, grasslands, and deserts, that have special value of protection;
- (4) Geological structures, well-known karst caves, fossil distribution areas, glaciers, volcanoes, hot springs, and other remains of the nature that have significant scientific or cultural value;
- (5) Other nature areas that have been approved by the State Council, or by a provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal government, for special protection.

Article 11. There are two types of nature preservation areas—national level and local level.

Nature preservation areas with typical significance at home and abroad, that have important international influence in scientific research, or that have special scientific research value are listed as national-level nature preservation areas.

Other nature preservation areas with typical significance or important scientific research value are listed as local-level nature preservation areas. Local-level nature preservation areas may be managed at various levels. The specific procedures for the management of local-level nature preservation areas are to be formulated in light of the actual situation by a competent administrative department of the State Council in charge of nature preservation areas, or by a provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government, and then submitted to the department of the State Council in charge of environmental protection for the record.

Article 12. Applications for the establishment of national-level nature preservation areas are to be submitted by the people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, or municipalities where the nature preservation areas are located, or by the State Council administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas. The applications are then appraised and examined by the national-level nature preservation areas appraising committee, coordinated with and suggestions attached by the State Council administrative department in charge of environmental protection, and submitted to the State Council for approval.

Applications for the establishment of local-level nature preservation areas are to be submitted by the people's governments of the counties, autonomous counties, cities, or autonomous prefectures where the nature preservation areas are located; or by the administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas of the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's governments. The applications are then appraised and examined by a local-level nature preservation areas appraising committee; coordinated with and suggestions attached by the

administrative department in charge of environmental protection of the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government; submitted to the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal peoples' government for approval; and submitted to the State Council administrative department in charge of environmental protection and to the State Council administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas for the record.

Applications for the establishment of nature preservation areas that spread across two or more administrative districts are to be submitted by the people's governments of concerned administrative districts after an agreement is reached between them. The applications are to be appraised and approved following the aforementioned procedures.

The establishment of nature preservation areas at sea is to be approved by the State Council.

Article 13. Relevant application forms should be filled out according to relevant regulations for the application for establishing nature preservation areas.

Article 14. The size and boundaries of nature preservation areas are to be decided by the people's government which approves the establishment of the nature preservation areas. The boundaries are to be marked and announced.

In deciding the size and boundaries of nature preservation areas, concerned authorities should take into consideration the completeness of the protected objects and the appropriateness of their protection; as well as the needs of local economic construction, production, and people's lives.

Article 15. Abolishment of nature preservation areas, or adjustments or changes to the nature, size, or boundaries of nature preservation areas, are to be approved by the people's government which approved the establishment of the nature preservation areas.

Without authorization, no units and individuals are allowed to change the boundaries of nature preservation areas.

Article 16. Nature preservation areas are to be named in the following manner:

For national-level nature preservation areas: Add "National-level Nature Preservation Area" to the name of the place where the nature preservation area is located.

For local-level nature preservation areas: Add "Local-level Nature Preservation Area" to the name of the place where the nature preservation area is located.

Nature preservation areas that have objects under special protection may add the name of the object under special protection to the name of the place where the nature preservation area is located.

Article 17. Based on the results of surveying and appraisal of the country's natural environment and resources, the State Council administrative department in charge of environmental protection, in conjunction with State Council administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas, should draw up a state nature preservation areas development program. After the program is

subjected to overall balance by the State Council's planning department, it should be submitted to the State Council for approval and implementation.

Nature preservation areas management organs or administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas should organize the drawing up of a nature preservation areas development program; following established procedures, incorporate it into the state, local, or departmental investment plan; and organize the implementation of the program.

Article 18. Nature preservation areas can be divided into core zones, buffer zones, and experimental zones.

Nature preservation areas where natural ecological systems are preserved in good condition and where rare and endangered animals and plants are distributed in concentrated areas shall be designated as the core zones and be off limits to all units and individuals; as well as to scientific research activities, except those otherwise approved by the provisions in Article 27 of these regulations.

Certain areas in the periphery of core zones can be designated as buffer zones where only scientific research and survey activities are permitted.

The periphery of buffer zones shall be experimental zones for conducting scientific experiments, teaching by practical training, and study and sightseeing tours; as well as for domesticating and breeding rare and endangered wildlife.

When the people's governments which originally approved the establishment of nature preservation areas deem it necessary, certain areas in the periphery of nature preservation areas can be designated as peripheral preservation zones.

Chapter III. The Management of Nature Preservation Areas

Article 19. The State Council administrative department in charge of environmental protection shall organize relevant State Council administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas for drafting technical norms and standards for managing nature preservation areas nationwide.

Relevant State Council administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas may, in accordance with the division of responsibilities, draft technical norms for various types of nature preservation areas, and report the norms to the State Council administrative department in charge of environmental protection for the record.

Article 20. Administrative departments in charge of environmental protection under the people's governments at and above the county level shall have the authority to exercise supervision and inspection of the management of various nature preservation areas within their own administrative district. Relevant administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas under the people's governments at and above the county level shall have the authority to exercise supervision and inspection of the management of nature preservation areas under their charge. Inspected units shall provide a factual report as

well as necessary materials to inspectors, while the latter shall keep technical and professional secrets for the former.

Article 21. National-level nature preservation areas shall be managed by relevant administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas under the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government where the areas are located; or by relevant State Council administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas. Local-level nature preservation areas shall be managed by relevant administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas under the people's governments at and above the county level.

Relevant administrative departments in charge of nature preservation areas shall set up special managing organs within nature preservation areas and appoint specialized technical personnel to take up specific responsibilities for the areas.

Article 22. The main duties of managing organs of nature preservation areas are as follows:

- (1) Implementing state laws and regulations as well as general and specific policies related to nature preservation;
- (2) Formulating various management systems to exercise unified management of nature preservation areas;
- (3) Conducting surveys and setting up files for natural resources and monitoring the environment to protect the ecology and natural resources inside nature preservation areas;
- (4) Organizing or assisting the relevant departments to conduct scientific research on nature preservation areas;
- (5) Carrying out publicity and education in nature preservation; and
- (6) Conducting study and sightseeing tours under the premise that the ecology and natural resources of the nature preservation areas are not affected.

Article 23. Expenditures for managing nature preservation areas shall be allocated by local-level governments at and above the county level in places where nature preservation areas are located. The state shall give appropriate funding assistance for managing national-level nature preservation areas.

Article 24. Public security organs in localities where nature preservation areas are located may set up public security police substations in the areas to maintain public order there as deemed necessary.

Article 25. Units and residents of, and personnel authorized to enter nature preservation areas must abide by various management systems inside the areas and must accept the supervision of their managing organs.

Article 26. Tree-felling, animal-grazing, hunting, fishing, medicinal herb-gathering, land reclaiming, moor-burning, mining, quarrying, and sand-digging are prohibited in nature preservation areas; except as otherwise prescribed in the laws and administrative rules.

Article 27. No one shall be allowed to enter nature preservation areas' core zones. Entrants into core zones to conduct research, observation, and survey activities for scientific projects must submit application and activity plans in advance to nature preservation areas' managing organs, and must obtain approval from the administrative department in charge of relevant nature preservation areas under the people's government at and above the provincial level; from these, entries into national-level nature preservation areas shall be approved by the State Council administrative department in charge of relevant nature preservation areas.

Where there is indeed a need for original residents of nature preservation areas' core zones to move out, the local people's government shall provide proper arrangements.

Article 28. Tourist, production, and management activities shall be prohibited in nature preservation areas' buffer zones. Entrants into buffer zones to conduct nondestructive research and teaching-by-practical training activities and to collect specimens for scientific projects must submit applications and activity plans in advance to the nature preservation areas' managing organs, and must obtain approval from the administrative organ in charge of nature preservation areas.

Units and individuals engaged in activities prescribed in the preceding paragraph must submit a copy of the research results to the administrative organ in charge of nature preservation areas.

Article 29. When conducting study and sightseeing tours in national-level nature preservation areas' experimental zones, the nature preservation areas' managing organs shall submit a proposed plan which—after examination and verification by the relevant administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government—shall be forwarded to the State Council administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas for approval. When conducting study and sightseeing tours in local-level nature preservation areas' experimental zones, the nature preservation areas' managing organs shall submit a proposed plan to the relevant administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under the provincial, autonomous regional, or regional people's government for approval.

When organizing study and sightseeing tours in nature preservation areas, it is necessary to conduct and supervise the tours according to approved plans and in an orderly manner. Units and individuals entering nature preservation areas for study and sightseeing tours must obey the supervision of the areas' managing organs.

Study and sightseeing tours that run counter to the orientation of nature preservation areas shall be strictly forbidden.

Article 30. Nature preservation areas where zoning is not completed shall be managed according to the provisions pertaining to core and buffer zones.

Article 31. Entry to local-level nature preservation areas by foreigners shall require that the sponsoring unit obtain

prior approval from the administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under the provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal people's government. Entry to national-level nature preservation areas by foreigners shall require that the sponsoring unit obtain approval from the State Council administrative department in charge of the relevant nature preservation areas.

Foreigners entering nature preservation areas must observe the laws, rules, and regulations concerning the nature preservation areas.

Article 32. In nature preservation areas' core and buffer zones, construction of any production facilities shall be prohibited. In nature preservation areas' experimental zones, construction of production facilities that may pollute the environment, or may damage the resources or natural landscape shall be prohibited; when constructing other projects, their pollutant discharge must not exceed the national and local standards for discharging pollutants. When pollutant discharge of facilities already built in nature preservation areas' experimental zone exceeds the national and local standards for discharging pollutants, a time limit must be set to bring the excessive pollutants under control. Where a damage is done, it is necessary to take remedial measures.

Constructions in nature preservation areas' peripheral preservation zones must not damage the areas' environmental quality. Where damage is done, it is necessary to set a time limit for making up the damage.

Decisions on setting a time limit for rectifying problems shall be made by organs prescribed by law and regulations. Enterprises, institutions, and units ordered to rectify problems within a time limit must complete the rectification on schedule.

Article 33. Units and individuals which have caused or may have caused pollution or damage in nature preservation areas as a result of accidents or spontaneous incidents must take immediate measures to deal with the aftermath; they must promptly notify units and residents that may be affected, must report to the nature preservation areas' managing organs and local administrative departments in charge of environmental protection and of nature preservation areas, and must accept the administrative departments' investigation.

Chapter IV. Legal Responsibilities

Article 34. Units and individuals committing one of the following acts in violation of these regulations shall be instructed to remedy them by nature preservation areas' managing organs, and may be given a fine of more than 100 yuan and less than 5,000 yuan depending on the degree of seriousness of violations:

- (1) Removing or destroying nature preservation areas' landmarks without authorization;
- (2) Entering nature preservation areas without permission or disobeying the managing organ in the areas; and
- (3) Units and individuals who are approved to conduct research, teaching-through-practical training, and specimen collection activities in nature preservation

areas' buffer zones, but who fail to submit their activity reports to the managing organ.

Article 35. Units and individuals who carry out tree-felling, animal-grazing, hunting, fishing, medicinal herb-gathering, land reclamation, moor-burning, mining, quarrying, and sand-digging activities in nature preservation areas in violation of the provisions in these regulations shall be confiscated of their illegal income and be instructed to stop their activities by the administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under a people's government at or above the county level, or by its authorized organ in charge of nature preservation areas, in addition to being penalized according to the provisions of relevant laws and administrative rules. Those who cause damage to nature preservation areas may be given a fine of more than 300 yuan and less than 10,000 yuan.

Article 36. Nature preservation areas' managing organs, which refuse supervision and inspection by the administrative department or competent authorities of environmental protection in violation of the provisions of these regulations, or which engage in fraudulent practice during inspections, shall be given a fine of more than 300 yuan and less than 3,000 yuan by the administrative department in charge of environmental protection or by competent authorities of nature preservation areas of a people's government at or above the county level.

Article 37. Nature preservation areas' managing organs, which commit one of the following acts in violation of the provisions of these regulations, shall be instructed to remedy them within a time limit by the administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under a people's government at or above the county level; and personnel who are directly responsible for violations shall be given disciplinary action by their work units or higher authorities:

- (1) Conducting study and sightseeing tours in nature preservation areas without authorization;
- (2) Carrying out study and sightseeing projects inconsistent with the orientation of nature preservation areas; and
- (3) Failing to conduct study and sightseeing tours according to approved plans.

Article 38. Whoever causes damage to nature preservation areas in violation of the provisions of these regulations shall be instructed to make compensation by the administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas under a people's government at or above the county level.

Article 39. Whoever obstructs managing personnel of nature preservation areas from executing official duties shall be punished according to the provisions of the "PRC Regulations Governing Offenses Against Public Order"; and shall be affixed with criminal responsibility in the event that the case is serious and constitutes a crime.

Article 40. Criminal responsibility shall be affixed on principal and other personnel directly responsible for causing serious pollution and destructive accidents in nature preservation areas in violation of the provisions of these regulations and for causing grave consequences in

public and private property losses or personal deaths and injuries, which constitute a crime.

Article 41. Managing personnel of nature preservation areas, who commit crimes through abusing powers, neglecting duties, and practicing favoritism, shall be affixed with criminal responsibility according to the law; when a case is minor and does not constitute a crime, the personnel concerned shall be given disciplinary sanction by their work units of higher authorities.

Chapter V. Appendix

Article 42. The State Council administrative department in charge of nature preservation areas may base on these regulations in formulating procedures for managing various types of nature preservation areas.

Article 43. All provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal people's government may base on these regulations in drawing up rules for implementation.

Article 44. These regulations become effective on 1 December 1994.

Atomic Energy Official on Radioactive Waste Disposal

OW2010122794 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service
in Chinese 2115 GMT 17 Oct 94

[By reporter Han Zhenjun (7281 2182 6511)]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, October 18 (XINHUA)—Li Dingfan, vice president of the China Atomic Energy Authority, said here recently: China has attached much importance to managing radioactive waste while developing nuclear energy and technology. It has formulated a set of radioactive waste disposal policies and management principles, which have so far ensured that no serious environmental pollution has occurred at nuclear facilities, thereby creating favorable conditions for the healthy development of the nuclear industry and nuclear-energy undertakings.

During an interview with this reporter, Li Dingfan outlined China's policies concerning radioactive waste management. He said: Though an important means for overcoming pollution from fossil fuel, nuclear energy development requires efforts to guard against pollution from radioactive waste. Regarding radioactive waste management, China has adopted a series of waste disposal policies and waste management principles which make the following demands: Radioactive waste treatment projects must be designed, constructed, and put into operation in conjunction with the principal parts of nuclear facilities; there should be strict compliance with national standards for radioactive waste discharges into the environment; policies that call for regional disposal of low- and medium-level radioactive waste should be implemented; policies that call for permanent, deep-geological disposal of highly radioactive waste should be implemented; and temporary storage buildings should be constructed to properly handle radioactive waste from urban areas.

Xie Zhenhua, director of the State Environmental Protection Bureau, said: The bureau has actively supported the development of nuclear electric power as appropriate. It

has also strictly managed nuclear power operations and radioactive waste disposal, so as to ensure the safe, reliable, and steady operation of nuclear power stations. Proper handling and safe disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel are issues which countries have to seriously approach and resolve in developing nuclear electric power. The State Environmental Protection Bureau has set up special organs to supervise radioactive waste discharges into the environment. He believes China's nuclear industry has amassed a group of outstanding scientific researchers and management personnel, and accumulated a wealth of technology and experience. He is convinced that with hard work from the nuclear industry personnel, fruitful international cooperation, and supervision from environmental protection departments, China will manage its nuclear power stations well and effectively solve the issue of nuclear waste management.

It is known that the construction of a disposal site used by our country for radioactive waste treatment is progressing smoothly.

Environmental Protection Inspection Launched

OW2110120794 Beijing XINHUA in English
1048 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nanning, October 21 (XINHUA)—China has launched an environmental protection inspection recently in the cities of the south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region,

The inspection group, led by Wang Bingqian, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, has inspected the environmental protection conditions in cities including Nanning, Guilin, Liuzhou and Beihai.

The group hailed the great achievements the regional government has made in environmental protection in the past few years while facilitating the economic development.

In 1993, the region's total industrial output rose by 35.2 percent over the previous year, while industrial waste waters, sulphur dioxide and smoke went up slightly by only one percent.

Since 1992, the environmental standards have been rendered into the regional economic development plan. A total of 16 items of such standards have been formulated, including the quality control of urban environment, waste water treatment and comprehensive use of the wastes.

A total of 197 major pollutive enterprises have been tackled in line with the standards set by the regional government.

In addition, 65 nature reserves have been built to protect wild plants and animals. Four are at the state level.

But pollution was found serious in some cities, including urban air, noise and river pollution and acid rain, according to the group. They urged the local governments to take effective measures to step up the work of local environmental protection.

Beijing Revises Environment Protection Law

OW2210020894 Beijing XINHUA in English
2032 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 21 (XINHUA)—China will map out more strict regulations to protect the deteriorating environment and guarantee undertaking international duties.

China is to greatly revise the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Air Pollution which was put into effect in 1988.

The revision draft of the law submitted here today to the legal body of China, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

Lin Zongtang, vice-chairman of the NPC Environment and Resources Protection Committee, made further explanation on the revision draft to the 10th session of the NPC Standing Committee which was open here today.

The draft says that China will practice the system of licence for allowing pollution entering the air. Enterprises that have regular equipments for disposing pollutants must apply for the licence. The pollutant must be released in a certain way at a certain time that the licence requires.

These enterprises must also turn over fees to the government which will be contributed to the prevention and protection of the environment.

The draft also made rules on controlling pollution caused by coal burning. The mining of unqualified coals must be limited or even forbidden by the local governments. On the other side, it forbids burning raw or unqualified coal in downtown areas.

The draft requires that pollutants produced by vehicles can not surpass the national criteria. The government will ban the production, import and sales of all motor-driven vehicles that produce more pollutants than the national criteria permit.

The government will, as the draft says, encourage producing and using high-grade lead-free gas to ease the lead pollution in the air by means of price and taxation.

The revision draft also lists methods of punishment for those who violate the law on prevention and treatment of air pollution.

Official Views Procedures for Handling Nuclear Waste

HK2210050094 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE
in English 1340 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 21 (CNS)—China pays much attention to the handling of radioactive waste and some disposal sites will be established for such material resulted from the use of nuclear energy, said the Deputy Director of the State Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Li Dingfan.

The authorities requests that various kinds of nuclear facilities had to reduce the volume of radioactive waste resulted from operation of these facilities. Processing of

the radioactive waste has to be taken into consideration together with nuclear facilities at the stage when design and construction were carried out. Categorized administration is conducted for radioactive waste according to standard set for various kinds of radioactive material. The state standard for the discharge of such waste has to be observed strictly.

Speaking of disposing radioactive waste, Mr. Li said that a regional processing practice was applied to solid waste of low or medium level radioactivity while waste of high radioactivity has to be permanently buried deep underground. Radioactive waste in urban area was kept storage on a temporary basis.

There are to date storage tanks for such waste on a temporary basis in some 20 cities. Draft law of prevention of radioactive pollution was drawn and will be submitted to the National People's Congress for discussion.

The National Environmental Protection Agency lends its strong support to development of nuclear power in a proper way on one hand while it puts emphasis on strict administration of operation of nuclear power plants and of radioactive waste on the other hand. Proper handling and safety disposal of radioactive waste as well as fuel is considered the very problem facing China at a time when it is now painstakingly exploiting nuclear power, according to the director of the environmental protection agency Mr. Xie Zhenhua. He added that serious pollution resulted from nuclear facilities had not yet occurred in China mainly because a clear principle and effective measures for nuclear power industry were in place.

Preparation To Implement International Antidesertification Treaty

OW0311142094 Beijing XINHUA in English
1400 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, November 3 (XINHUA)—China is preparing for the implementation of international treaty of anti-desertification signed last month by more than 110 countries, Vice-Minister of Forestry Zhu Guangyao said here today.

China executive committee for the treaty and the committee's secretariat have been set up, since he signed the treaty on behalf of the Chinese delegation on October 14 in Paris, Zhu said.

The treaty will go into effect next year.

Zhu told a group of senior advisors to the committee today the secretariat are mainly responsible for collecting information on China's desertification and its development, formulating programs, policies and drafting laws or regulations on anti-desertification.

The secretariat will also conduct international exchanges and cooperation on desert control, in which the vice-minister said China will play a positive role.

China is going to select research subjects concerning desert control and train a number of experts with internationally advanced desert control expertise.

China's dry and semi-dry areas account for about one third of its land and its total area of desert is increasing, the vice-minister said.

China has launched a national desert-control program, which aims to develop about seven million ha of desert during 1991-2000.

A nationwide survey and monitoring of desert is expected to be completed next year, Zhu said.

The state sciences and technology commission has allocated about three million yuan for desert-control research this year and next year and plans to list anti-desertification research as part of 1996-2000 national research programs, Zhu disclosed.

The Ministry of Forestry is drafting a law on anti-desertification which is expected to be submitted to the Bureau of Legislative Affairs under the State Council next year, he added.

Three-Year Plan To Clean Up Huaihe River Announced

HK1011062294 Beijing CHINA DAILY in English
10 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Zhu Baoxia: "State Plans To Clean Up Big River in Three Years"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is planning to clean up the Huaihe River in Central and East China within three years, environmental officials said.

The 1,000-kilometre-long river, a geographic and climatic landmark of the mainland, runs across the densely-populated provinces of Henan, Anhui, Shandong and Jiangsu provinces.

For decades it has been polluted by domestic and industrial waste discharged by residents and factories along its banks.

Three State departments have drafted a programme to control pollution, and the plan is expected to soon be ratified by the State Council, according to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

Under the programme, drafted by the State Planning Commission, Ministry of Water Resources and NEPA, State departments and local governments will be made responsible for the river's protection. Any violators of the regulations will be punished and, in serious cases, will be prosecuted, said Ling Jiang, NEPA's deputy division chief of water pollution.

Ling said that the organization is to carry out an inspection of the four provinces, where the Huaihe River runs, before the end of the year. The survey will show whether the most

serious polluters have been shut down or changed their production processes as required by the NEPA.

Ling said that up to 191 enterprises along the river should have been shut down or should have started to manufacture environmentally-friendly products by the end of the year.

So far, some 60 pollution-prone firms in Henan and Shandong provinces have been closed. Most of the firms are small paper factories.

Enterprises along the Huaihe must treat their waste before discharging it into the river. Those enterprises which are unable to curb their pollution, will be shut down.

The central government was alerted last August by widespread complaints from local residents and environmentalists. NEPA statistics reveal that nearly 7 million tons of untreated waste are being poured into the river each year.

Pollution has meant that the river's water can no longer be used for cooking or agriculture, NEPA experts said.

Farmers who have used dirty water for irrigation, have seen their grain outputs decline.

Fish

And the number of fish living in the river has been decimated. Even the health of local residents has been endangered, inspecting officials said.

Last May, the water used by a 46,000 mu (3,000 hectares) fish farm in Jiaogang Lake, Anhui Province, turned black and thousands of fish and shrimp were found dead.

More than 1,000 fishermen living along the river were poisoned after drinking dirty water, and 230 of them had to go to hospital.

The pollution caused economic losses worth more than 29 million yuan (\$3.4 million).

The ecological balance of Jiaogang Lake was so badly damaged that experts have predicted that it will take longer than three years to recover. According to Ling Jiang, provincial and local governments all support the national drive to clean up the river and have worked out their own plans of action.

The biggest difficulty, he said, is lack of money.

At least 10 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion) will be needed to clean the river, half of which will be raised by local governments and enterprises.

Another 6 billion yuan (about \$700 million) is needed to build 77 waste treatment plants in cities and counties along the river.

Ling said that several companies from Germany, the United States and Australia have come to NEPA with proposals for controlling pollution there.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Ministers Agree To Improve Environmental Cooperation*BK2210112594 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 22 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ministers in charge of environmental matters in ASEAN countries, Vietnam, and Laos have agreed in principle to intensify cooperation to control pollution in the region.

Malaysia's science, technology, and environment minister, Datuk Law Hieng Ding, said today the ministers agreed at their unofficial meeting in Kuching that environmental degradation affecting anyone of them should be viewed as a common problem as they came under the same ecosystem. He said environmental problems like haze, forest fires, and typhoons would be given priority under the cooperation. He was speaking to newsmen after launching the national environment week.

Datuk Law said apart from haze, other environmental matters with transboundary effects were the preservation of corals and illegal fishing.

INDONESIA

Jakarta Wants Equal Treatment in Wood Labelling*BK0211051594 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 2 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Indonesia has threatened not to implement eco-labelling procedures if similar procedures are not applied to boreal and temperate wood. Speaking in Jakarta, Forestry Minister Jamaludin Suryohadikusumo, however, reiterated this does not mean that Indonesia does not pay any attention to proper forest management. Rather, Indonesia will continue to implement the principles of sustainable forest management. Indonesia will test the implementation of the eco-labelling procedures in several companies in 1995. Most importantly, Indonesia is ready to implement the eco-labelling procedures in 2000. At present, the eco-labelling procedures apply only to tropical wood. Thus, the practice sounds discriminatory.

JAPAN

Asian NGO's To Discuss Environment Network*OW2210131894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 22 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from some 20 Asian countries, including Russia, will discuss establishing a network for environment protection at a conference next month in Kyoto, western Japan, organizers said Saturday [22 October].

The two-day Asia-Pacific NGO Environment Conference, which will focus on grass-roots activities to stop environmental destruction as well as ways to realize sustainable economic development, will be held at the Ritsumeikan University from Nov. 18.

The participants will also hear reports on the environmental situation in each country and discuss Asia's role in global environment protection at a symposium Nov. 19.

The conference, the third of its kind following meetings in Bangkok in 1991 and Seoul in 1993, is expected to adopt a special declaration.

Diet Members Ready To Join Campaign To Protect Forests*OW2110103594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 21 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO—A total of 142 parliamentarians expressed readiness Friday [21 October] to join a proposed suprapartisan group to campaign for the protection of tropical forests from excessive logging, a private survey said.

A Tokyo-based civic group, the Sarawak Campaign Committee, sent questionnaires to all 761 legislators of both chambers of the Diet. Of the total, 170 lawmakers or 22.3 percent responded, with 83 percent expressing readiness to join the proposed group.

A committee member told reporters, "we will ask the legislators who are ready to help to legislate a bill to expedite policies designed to preserve" the forests.

Of the respondents, 143 legislators said they have records of taking action to save the environment from industrial pollution or development, the survey said. Forty-two percent said Japan should curtail "by more than 90 percent" the consumption of lumber imported from countries with tropical forests. Japan imports some 30 percent of lumber logged worldwide from tropical forests. Fifty-two percent preferred a less radical approach, saying consumption should be whittled down over time.

The civic group was established in 1990 by concerned citizens to protect the human rights of indigenous people being forced by developers out of various tropical regions, including Sarawak in Malaysia.

Agency Reports Antarctic Ozone Hole Widens to Record Size*OW2010131594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 20 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 20 KYODO—The "ozone hole" which appears every southern spring over the Antarctica has opened to an unprecedented size since late September, the Meteorological Agency said Thursday [19 October].

The gaseous ozone layer in the stratosphere shields life on earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

U.S. Satellite data and reports from Japan's Showa base at the South Pole show that on Sept. 22 the ozone hole, an area where the ozone concentration is too low to act as a

sun shield, covered a record 2.4 million square meter area equaling 1.7 times the size of the Antarctica, the agency said. In addition, the hole's ozone concentration has reached an all-time low, while the total amount of ozone that has been destroyed reached a record high in late September.

The life-saving filter is being depleted mainly by chlorofluorocarbons (cfc) used as coolants, industrial solvents and in aerosol sprays. Although international cfc production is scheduled to be completely banned by the year 2000, experts predict the cfc already released into the atmosphere will continue to deplete the ozone layer for decades to come.

An agency official said although the ozone hole's immediate effect on the ecosystem is not yet known, the plankton in the oceans, an important source of food for many sea animals, will likely be affected by the increased ultraviolet radiation. Since British researchers accidentally "discovered" the ozone hole over the South Pole in 1982, the natural sun shield has been further depleted even beyond the poles.

SOUTH KOREA

Delegation To Attend November CITES Meeting in Florida

SK0211105894 Seoul YONHAP in English
1038 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 2 (YONHAP)—A nine-member government delegation will attend the 9th signatory countries' meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) slated for Nov. 7-18 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Korean delegation will be headed by An Yong-cha, international cooperation officer of the Ministry of Environment.

An official at the ministry said the biennial meeting will be attended by delegates from the 124 CITES signatory countries and about 2,000 representatives of private environmental organizations around the world.

Topics of the mammoth meeting will include the reorganization of the CITES Standing Committee, ways to step up control of trade in endangered species and an amendment to CITES appendices.

South Korea joined the CITES on Oct. 7 last year.

TAIWAN

New Registration of Rhino Horns, Tiger Products Announced

OW0611131394 Taipei China Broadcasting Corporation
News Network in Mandarin 2300 GMT 1 Nov 94

[From the "Hookup" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second registration of rhino horns and tiger products will begin soon. The Council of Agriculture said: To safeguard the rights and benefits of

those who own rhino horns and tiger products, it will launch an extensive publicity campaign to tell people how to apply for the registration and how to verify these things. It is expected that the registration will be accomplished by 3 December. Here is a report by Lin Kui-min. [begin Lin recording]

Lin: The Council of Agriculture said this publicity campaign will be carried out through radio and television as well as through newspapers in three stages. The campaign aims at reminding people to register these items before the deadline to safeguard their rights and benefits and to avoid being fined. People can register their rhino horns and tiger products with a county, city, village, township, or district government. After accepting their applications, authorities concerned will send personnel to verify and register these items, recording the quantity, weight, and height of these items. A sequence number will be given for each item after its picture is taken. A total of 138 personnel from various local governments will carry out the registration in a month and accomplish the work by 3 December. The registration cannot be accomplished before the convening of Washington Wildlife Convention. But it is hoped that, before this December when the U.S. Government begins reviewing Pelly's bill, such registration, if conducted smoothly, will provide persuasive information concerning the stock volume of rhino horns—one of the prerequisites for lifting trade sanctions.

This is Lin Kui-min reporting from the Council of Agriculture. [end recording]

Legislature Passes Amendments to Wildlife Conservation Law

OW2810102394 Taipei CNA in English
0741 GMT 28 Oct 94

[By Debbie Kuo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taipei, Oct. 28 (CNA)—Taiwan residents must re-register their rhino horn, tiger parts or other endangered species products beginning November 1 under the revised Wildlife Conservation Law, a Council of Agriculture (COA) spokesman said Thursday [27 October].

After a marathon debate late Thursday night, the Legislative Yuan finally passed the amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Law which hopefully will help Taiwan avoid being sanctioned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a wildlife protection arm of the United Nations.

The revised law significantly increases fines and penalties for illegal trafficking, trade and display of endangered wildlife species and related products.

Under a "grandfather clause," the law gives wildlife breeders a three-year grace period in which to deal with their stocks of wild and endangered species before captive breeding is thoroughly banned.

The amendments stipulate that fines for failure to register possession of endangered species or their parts will be increased to NT\$50,000 [new Taiwan dollars] with the seized species or products confiscated.

CITES is meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, beginning November 7 to discuss topics including Taiwan's conservation progress and possible sanctions.

Li Sends Message to Taipei Pollution Conference

OW0211100794 Taipei CNA in English
0817 GMT 2 Nov 94

[By Debbie Kuo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taipei, Nov. 2 (CNA)—President Li Teng-hui Wednesday [2 November] called on world scholars and experts to work together to protect the environment, saying that the work requires the concerted efforts of all nations.

In a written message read at the opening of a meeting of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Association (IUAPPA), Li said it is vital for the world to upgrade environmental protection in the wake of economic growth and development which has adversely impacted the environment.

The seventh IUAPPA regional conference for the Pacific Rim on air pollution and waste issues opened Wednesday at the Academia Sinica, the highest research institute in Taiwan, with several hundreds of scientists and specialists from home and abroad participating.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Academia Sinica President Yuan T. Li said it is significant that for the first time the IUAPPA chose to convene its Pacific Rim regional conference in Taipei.

He noted that IUAPPA president Alec Estlander, as well as delegates from Japan, South Korea and Mainland China all came to Taiwan for the meeting. He also urged all nations to cooperate in air pollution prevention and environmental protection, which he called common world problems.

IUAPPA, a non-governmental international organization, was established in 1964. It boasts 34 members, including the Republic of China [ROC], and 36 observer nations.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Southern Cone Environmental Issues Through 27 October

PY2810004094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on environmental issues monitored through 27 October.

Argentina

On 6 October President Menem advocated a government project to install toxic waste processing plants nationwide. He termed "a serious crime" the dumping of toxic waste into rivers and sewers, which has caused many fatalities. He said people oppose the project of Maria Julia Alsogaray, natural resources and environment secretary. He complained that "nobody is willing to cooperate." (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1420 GMT 6 Oct 94)

Adelmar Vacchino, head of the La Pampa Province River Resources Secretariat, reported on 13 October that an oil pipeline cracked in Neuquen causing a spill that contaminated the Colorado River. The heavy rains that flooded the river in the Buta Ranquil zone, cracked the oil pipeline owned by the Government Oil Deposits. Hector Holgado, president of the Colorado River Resources Secretariat, said the situation is under control but there is contamination. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1154 GMT 13 Oct 94)

Army Chief of Staff Martin Balza and Maria Julia Alsogaray, natural resources and environment secretary, on 18 October signed an agreement on environmental protection. The document says the Armed Forces will provide personnel and elements to control pollution of rivers, the ozone layer, national parks, and Antarctica. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1646 GMT 18 Oct 94)

Chile

On 15 October some 500 people who inhaled turpentine sulfate were intoxicated in the city of Concepcion, 515 km south of Santiago. An Argentine truck driver deliberately dumped about 500 liters of the chemicals to avoid police control. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2347 GMT 15 Oct 94)

Several Chilean ecologist organizations on 18 October asked the Government to declare a "natural disaster" over the deterioration of the ozone layer in Antarctica, which has worsened this month and "is seriously endangering" the population of the Chilean southern zone. The ozone layer depletion in Antarctica affects approximately 24 million square kilometers, including the Chilean Magellan region. This is the most seriously affected area in the world along with the Argentine southern part and Australia. Political Ecology Institute, IEP, President Manuel Baquedano said the IEP and the National Ecological Action

Organization will ask the government to create a National Ozone Commission to face this problem. They asked Congress to expedite the law on ways to protect and evaluate the effects of the ozone layer deterioration. The project was submitted to Congress in 1992. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1725 GMT 18 Oct 94)

Paraguay

The Caazapa Departmental Council members are concerned over the massive deforestation in Caazapa Department. They issued a document on the indiscriminate deforestation, urging support for forest protection and the preservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity. They urge the implementation of a reforestation program with native species. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Oct 94 p 42)

Peru

Pollution in Lima contributes to spread many diseases among the population, among them skin cancer, respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases. Organizations that draft strategies for the environment preservation report that 13 main areas are critical environmental zones: Tumbes is affected by deforestation, indiscriminate hunting of fauna, and soil salinization; Chira and Piura are affected by floods, erosion, critical soil salinization, and oil pollution; Chimbote and Santa by sea, air, metalworking, fishing, and mining pollution, mudslides and soil salinization; Chillon, Rimac, and Lurin by seismic movements, contamination of the sea, rivers, air, soil, erosion of river basins; Tambo, Ilo, and Locumba by arid lands, mining contamination, mudslides, tremors, exploitation of river resources, air contamination; Cajamarca by river pollution, deforestation, droughts; Cerro de Pasco and La Oroya by mining contamination of rivers, lakes, and air and the destruction of the Andean fauna and flora; Huanacavelica and Ayacucho by mining pollution and drought; Puno by pollution of Lake Titicaca, drought, and frost; Cusco by erosion, deforestation on the slopes, droughts, floods, and the loss of hydrobiological resources; Pastaza, Tigre, and Marañon by hydrocarbon, toxic products, heavy metals, and domestic waste dumped in rivers and lagoons; Huallaga by illegal migratory agriculture, deforestation, erosion, and contamination caused by chemicals, and depredation of animal species; Madre de Dios by pollution of rivers, deforestation, excessive hunting and fishing, fauna depredation, and regional isolation. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p A18)

Uruguay

The Agriculture and Fishing Ministry Renewable Resources Directorate has seized 579 animal skins at a tannery in Montevideo. The hunting of these animals is forbidden in Uruguay. On 16 September the Renewable Resources Directorate raided a tannery during a control in Soriano and Rio Negro Departments and seized capybara and rhea-skin belts, wildcat skins, and deer skin. (Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 35)

Southern Cone Environmental Issues Through 3 November

PY0711164194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on environmental issues monitored through 3 November 1994.

Argentina

San Isidro Federal Court Roberto Marquevich has established 1 November 1995 as the deadline for 11 major companies to build toxic waste processing plants. The companies are Sevel, Autolatina, Colorin, Alba, Mercedes Benz, Armetal, Glasurit, Ipsam, Comsergas, Siderca, and Comesi. Marquevich sent a note on the resolution to President Carlos Menem in which he stated that the 38,000 companies installed in the Buenos Aires Province produce 2 million metric tons of toxic waste annually and that they lack a waste processing plant. An investigation showed that the plants are storing many metric tons of toxic waste following the closure of the Ipa Latina Company that recycled their waste. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1305 GMT 2 Nov 94)

Bolivia

Government officials have reported that atherine fish in Poopo Lake are dying as the result of water contamination from nearby mines. The cultivation of atherine by the Uru-Murato Indians has practically disappeared. The Indians in Willaneque, Punaca Tinta Maria, and Llapallapani reported that the water contamination is also killing the animal life of the region. Figures released by the Fishing Development Center in 1992 show that atherine fishing was under 500 kg as compared to three tonnes in 1990. The lake water level is also decreasing due to an ecological cycle which may convert the lake into a salt flat. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Oct 94 p 5)

Brazil

Judicial officials of Acre State have requested the closure of two saw mills and four businesses that produce natural rubber for destroying 10,000 hectare of Amazon forest in Sena Madureira, 145 km from Rio Branco, capital of Acre State. The companies are the saw mills J.R. Company and Ferreira Industry, and the natural rubber producers are Palmares, Oriente, Novo Natal, and Novo Sao Joao. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2122 GMT 26 Oct 94)

Greenpeace activists have prevented the loading of 4,000 cubic meters of wood, which is the equivalent to about 2,000 trees, on the Ukrainian ship Kapitain Trubkin in the Santarem port, Para State. Federal Police Superintendent Fabio Caetano told Greenpeace to leave the country in 24 hours because it was preventing the wood shipment. (Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2222 GMT 27 Oct 94)

The Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, Ibama, on 1 November implemented the Emergency Action Plan, PAE, to improve the protection of the National Caparao Park natural resources. Ibama Superintendent Jader Figueiredo said this will be the third natural reserve in Minas State to be included in the PAE. Of the four national parks administered by

Ibama in Minas, only the Grande Sertao Veredas has not yet been included in the plan. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 2 Nov 94 p 15)

Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti, the environment and Legal Amazon Region minister, and Bank of Brazil President Alcir Calliari this morning dedicated a non-government organizations, NGO, support program that renders services in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest regions. The program will benefit nearly 300 NGO's that operate in the Amazon region. It is financed by a \$30 million donation from the seven most industrialized countries of the world and the EU. Of this, \$7.7 million is already available at the Bank of Brazil which received the money from the World Bank. The environment minister said: "We have many projects, like soil preservation, forestry administration, and rational use of regional vegetable products. They all pertain to the environment in the Amazon region." These projects are part of a broader program which foresees a \$250 million investment in the region." This is the largest donation by industrialized countries for a large-scope program in the Amazon region, the minister added. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 3 Nov 94)

Chile

Professor Victor Valderrama, director of the Atmospheric Study Center of the University of Magallanes, has reported that the hole in the ozone layer completely covers the south of Chile. The layer has decreased to 157 Dobson units. He said the situation is serious but not alarming. It was predictable because last September the hole was one and a half times the size of the Antarctic, reaching Cape Horn, but it now reaches Coihaique. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 18 Oct 94 p C8)

Peru

Agriculture and Livestock Regional Directorate spokesmen have reported that the 10,444 vicunas in the Los Libertadores Wari region are being threatened by hunters. In Ayacucho the 18,855 vicunas there are also threatened by hunters. This is a big drop on the 50,000 vicunas registered in Ayacucho in the 1980 census. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Oct 94 p 124)

The Transitory Administration Council of the Andres Bello Region has declared the Chinchaycocha or Junin Lake, in Chinchaycocha Province, in state of public calamity. Measures will be adopted to reduce the high pollution level. A report show the San Juan River and the tributaries of the lake contain high levels of heavy metals, including iron, cadmium, manganese, lead, zinc, and copper, as well as nitrate and sulphate. More than 50 percent of the flora and fauna species have been killed by mining pollution from the concentration of mining companies in the Pasco subregion. The state of calamity includes the Vico and Huayllay Districts in Pasco, and the Ondores and San Pedro de Pari Districts in Junin, Caceres Region. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Oct 94 p A1)

Uruguay

The new Environmental Law to be enforced by the government establishes strict regulations for the preservation of the environment and natural resources to prevent the

depredation that could jeopardize the ecological equilibrium. The new measure approved by the executive branch under Law 16466 of 19 January 1994 state that the Housing and Environment Ministry will be in charge of enforcing the law. The law refers to constructions and projects for production and industry, road and bridge constructions, and measures to prevent contamination from the use of fuels and the construction of units to produce and transport electricity. (Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 11)

Seminar Aim: Regional Maritime Safety, Pollution Code

FL1910223194 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ships [word indistinct] Caribbean waters may soon have to answer to a regional policing body. Port state control will ensure that ships [words indistinct] to specific safety standards and monitor their levels of marine pollution. The establishment of this new body is the focus of a three-day seminar currently underway in Trinidad and Tobago. Sharon Coward reports. [begin recording]

Coward: According to maritime officials, the Caribbean is one of the last remaining areas in the world without a program governing ship safety standards and marine pollution from those vessels. Works Minister Colm Imbert identifies the inter-island schooner trade and cruise line visits as areas of particular concern.

Imbert: These vessels are extremely vulnerable to disasters and in fact, our records indicate that the majority of casualties reported to the Trinidad and Tobago authorities in 1993 involved these type of schooners. Some Caribbean states receive over 400 cruise ship arrivals annually, with each call generating, I am told, an average of four tons of garbage. One can imagine the problems this poses for the various port authorities in the region.

Coward: The more than 20 regional representatives hope to produce more than a draft agreement on four-stage control and a plan of action on training in the area. Senior deputy director of the international maritime organization, Fernando Plaza, stresses the need for such training.

Plaza: It is no use to have an agreement, it would be no use to have very good words for cooperation unless we come to the [word indistinct] stage, unless we have a cadre of inspectors, surveyors, who can do and act in accordance with with border state control memorandum in order to improve the safety of ships that is an institutional framework first but secondly, but not lastly good inspectors, surveyors for which there is only one word—good training.

Coward: In a move to help ensure safer shipping and cleaner seas, this country's government has offered host facilities to a maritime safety project, as well as technical assistance in maritime administration to other Caribbean states. [end recording]

BRAZIL

Businessmen Preparing To Adjust to Environmental Standards

PY0111214094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2057 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 30 Oct (AE)—Brazilian industry will be shaken by a strong "environmental wave" in 1995. As of January proposals for environmental rules will be discussed in various countries. The industrial sector must abide by these rules if they are to obtain the ISO [International Organization Standardization] 14,000 certificate, the environmental version of the ISO 9,000 certificate, which will be implemented as of January 1996. [passage omitted]

The few Brazilian businessmen who are aware of the scope and risks of the ISO 14,000 project will work with the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards [ABNT] to closely follow what happens in 1995 to the commission that will determine the criteria for granting the ISO 14,000 certificate. The Environmental Standards Support Group [Grupo de Apoio a Normatizacao Ambiental - GANA], which will pay the expenses of Brazilian representatives to meetings in several countries, comprises 45 enterprises. Frederico Marques Cabral, of the ABNT Certificates Department, said the group is preparing a 2-year schedule of activities at a cost of \$450,000.

The GANA will try to recruit more businessmen in Brazil to assess the situation of Brazilian industry with regard to the ISO 14,000 certificates. The idea is to draft proposals based on Brazil's possibilities and difficulties and to avoid the establishment of blocs by other countries that may impose unattainable or protectionist standards. The ABNT representative stated: "We must avoid favoritism and ensure that future standards are feasible for developing countries."

Brazilian industrialists and businessmen are being attracted by alerting them to the imminent changes and offering an opportunity for debate. [passage omitted]

The Europeans have been won over by the marketing appeal of ecological industrial production which will prevail over protests by Brazilian producers. These competition rules will automatically lead to their acceptance. Enrico Dorigo, director of the Fiat Auto Energy and Ecological Process, said: "All that is necessary is for one company to obtain an ISO 14,000 certificate and the others will feel obliged to obtain one." GANA and ABNT fear this competition will bankrupt those companies that cannot keep up with the green wave requirements.

Adoption of Environmental Standards Viewed

PY2110183094 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Oct 94 p 13

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brazil, whose environmental protection laws are more advanced than those of its partners

within Mercosur [Common Market of the South], proposed a few days ago—in Asuncion, Paraguay—the so-called destination rule: Member countries may sell their products on the Brazilian market providing they observe environmental preservation standards.

If this proposal is approved, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay will be unable to sell on the Brazilian market, for example, non-biodegradable detergents, or juicers that make more than the permitted noise levels. One Itamaraty source has said that the Brazilian Government thus seeks to preserve its high environmental standards. Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay must formulate an answer to the proposal on 17 and 18 November in Montevideo. But this is merely a partial solution. During the Mercosur transition period, which expires on 31 December, it will be impossible to standardize the technical regulations of the four countries. The diplomat added: "Until Mercosur regulations are standardized, the destination rule will prevail. With time, Mercosur will become standardized, based on the most advanced regulations."

The main document issued by the Mercosur Specialized Meeting on Environment [Reuniao Especializada de Meio Ambiente—REMA] proposes basic guidelines on environmental policy. Although criticized by environmentalists for being too general, the document provides the only possible solution because there are big differences between Brazilian laws and those of the other Mercosur members. The Brazilian Constitution has an entire chapter on the environment and the states and counties have their own legislation. Mercosur negotiators immediately saw that it would be impossible to harmonize the different countries laws so they sought another solution: They looked into the environmental norms that should be included in the four countries' laws. They adopted the principle that those who have no laws should pass them. For example: If Brazil has laws on reporting environmental impact, then the other countries must have the same laws too.

The first basic guideline of the document states: "In the absence of environmental laws, countries will adopt norms that adequately consider implied environmental aspects and guarantee competitive conditions within Mercosur."

Another interesting point is the inclusion of environmental costs in the overall cost analysis of any productive process. This will avoid price distortions. There is, however, a realistic attitude. As one diplomat commented: "It is impossible to expect Paraguay to immediately install filters at all its factories."

Mercosur environmental instruments are still embryonic, but among the proposals being discussed is the identification of international commitments that can influence the economies of the four countries. The measures being adopted by Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay should be checked to see if the commitments made at ECO-92 [United Nations Environment Conference held in Brazil in 1992] are all progressing at the same level.

The environmental theme is so complex it permeates almost all Mercosur sub-groups. At internal meetings in Brazil, the REMA—which is coordinated by the Legal Amazon and Environment Ministry—receives subsidies

from the Ministries of Health, Transportation, Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and Mines and Energy. Itamaraty coordinates Brazilian actions within Mercosur.

Whenever toxic substances are transported, for example, the Transportation Ministry must be consulted. The performance of the Mines and Energy Ministry is important because companies like the Brazilian Petroleum Inc. and the Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc. produce environmental impact reports.

No one knows what will happen to the specialized Mercosur sub-groups after 1 January 1995. Everything depends on decisions reached during the conference in Brasilia on 1 and 2 December, at which the four foreign ministers will define the institutional structure of Mercosur, its organizations, and where they will be headquartered.

The document entitled Basic Guidelines on Mercosur Environmental Policy Matters states that member-countries must:

- Adopt practices to preserve the environment in processes that use natural resources;
- Adopt sustainable management techniques when dealing with renewable natural resources to ensure their continued availability;
- Adopt environmental licensing/implementation practices in all activities that can potentially destroy the environment in member-countries;
- Ensure that only very small amounts of pollutants are released into the environment through the adoption of clean development technologies and recycling, as well as the correct treatment of solid, liquid, and gas residues;
- Ensure that productive processes and trade cause the minimum damage to the environment, bearing in mind regional integration within the framework of the Mercosur;
- Enhance all efforts to harmonize legal and/or institutional procedures for environmental licensing and implementation, and monitor the environmental impact on the shared ecosystems;
- Stimulate the coordination of common environmental criteria toward the negotiation and implementation of international acts that are considered a priority in the integration process;
- Strengthen environmentally sustainable management through better decision-making information; improve the ability to evaluate; and revive teaching, training, and research institutions;
- Ensure that the promotion of tourism among the member-countries will consider the principles and norms of environmental balance.

ECUADOR

Oil Spills Harming Ecology of Amazon Region

PA2010171394 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish
1200 GMT 19 Oct 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the course of 15 days, 2,100 barrels of oil have spilled in Ecuador's Amazon region, harming the area's ecology. The main reason for the spills being faced by foreign and national oil companies is the continuing deterioration and corrosion of the installations.

PANAMA

Foreign Ministry To Ask U.S. To 'Decontaminate' Bases

PA0611042794 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
5 Nov 94 p 4A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Carlos Mendoza, president of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), has announced that the Panamanian Government, through its Foreign Ministry, will ask the United States to "decontaminate" all military bases they operate in the country before turning them over to Panama, in compliance with the Panama Canal Treaties.

Mendoza said the government will make the request because cleaning up the bases will be costly, and it does not have the hundreds of millions of dollars that would be required for this task.

He added that Panama is planning ahead because this situation cannot be left unresolved for the year 2000.

Mendoza explained that the contamination of the bases is not the product of someone's ill intentions but is a phenomena that occurred because many things were unknown 40 years ago. He added that the contamination took place not only in Panama but in various parts of the world.

The ARI president said the government is studying the levels of contamination on the bases because, according to the treaties, the United States must turn over the military sites in clean condition.

He said the purpose of the study is to show the U.S. Government the existing degree of contamination so it can learn about the magnitude of the situation and proceed to clean up the installations.

Mendoza said that once the study is complete, a report will be given to Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo so he can submit the request to the U.S. Government through its embassy here as well as through the Panamanian Embassy in Washington.

According to the official, the principal areas of military contamination are the firing ranges and air bases.

The United States maintains 14 military bases in Panama, which they will begin to turn over to Panama in 1995.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS**Tunisia, Israel Agree To Cooperate on Environment**

TA0111105194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 1 Nov 94 p 14

[Report by Yitzhaq Bar-Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisian and Israeli experts will carry out reciprocal visits and cooperate on environmental issues. This was decided upon yesterday at a meeting in Tunisia between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and his Tunisian counterpart Mohamed Mehid Mlika.

Sarid is currently in Tunisia attending a conference of environment ministers from Mediterranean countries.

The minister said that the atmosphere at the meeting has been "very friendly." In response to the Israeli minister's proposal that both countries upgrade the level of their

relations, Mlika said that "this will undoubtedly happen in the future." The Tunisian minister noted that at any time cooperation could be stepped up in several fields, including the environment.

ISRAEL**Minister Sarid Leaves for Environment Conference in Tunisia**

TA3010091794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid has left for Tunisia where he will take part in the first conference of Mediterranean countries' environment ministers. The conference will address the future of the Mediterranean and ways to protect it from the growing pollution.

Minister Sarid will propose environment cooperation plans and meet with Tunisian establishment members.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Minister Notes River Pollution in Lithuania, Latvia

LD2910110894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In various tributaries of the river Musa in Lithuania, toxic pollution has been detected at the same time, which conflicts with previously published reports claiming that the pollution originated from dichlorobenzene acid decomposing with pesticides and herbicides used on farms, Indulis Emsis, minister of state for the environment, reports. The source of the pollution on the Lithuanian side has not yet been detected. In Emsis's view, it could possibly be a case of pure vandalism. The minister says that the concentration of dichlorobenzene acid on Latvian territory is not currently lethal, but it is dangerous to life. Emsis believes the situation is very serious, and warns that one must not drink water or eat fish from the Lielupe basin [into which the river flows]. So far there are no indications of poisoning. The [word indistinct] of toxic substances flowing into the Lielupe would manifest itself within eight days. So today there is a meeting in Bauska of representatives of the Latvian State Environmental Inspectorate, the Ministry of Welfare and the Hydrometeorological Administration, and the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Institute. The participants in the meeting will discuss the problems of the pollution of the Musa and the Lielupe.

Vilnius Embassy Issues Statement on Nuclear Station Talks

LD2110124994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Belarus, not possessing a single nuclear power station and having suffered more than other states from the Chernobyl accident, has done everything in its power to solve the problem, reads a statement sent by the Belarusian Embassy in Lithuania to ELTA. The Embassy informs that currently, laws are being drafted in Belarus to regulate the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This demonstrates that endeavors are being made to develop good relations not only with neighbors, but also with other states.

Belarusian representatives have drafted a project for a tripartite Belarusian, Swedish, and Lithuanian agreement. According to this project, all responsibility for possible damages caused by a nuclear accident will be borne by the owner of the nuclear power station. Such a solution, in the opinion of the Belarusians, will enable Swedish suppliers to implement a whole range of improvements in the safety of the Ignalina nuclear power station.

But Swedish representatives did not agree with this proposal during the negotiations in Stockholm and urged Belarus to conclude separate bilateral agreements with Sweden and Lithuania. A new round of negotiations started in January 1994 in Vilnius. Draft bilateral agreements proposed by Belarusian experts were examined. The Lithuanian delegation proposed an extension of the limits

of the draft projects and conclusion of an extensive agreement on cooperation in the sphere of nuclear energy.

Unfortunately, issues concerning the improvement of safety at the Ignalina nuclear power station must unavoidably be discussed. Belarus supported this version. It was agreed in principle that, after the signing of a Belarusian-Lithuanian agreement, the Republic of Belarus, not wishing to create any obstacles to the Swedish program of support to Lithuania, will unilaterally give up any claims to the firms supplying equipment. But Lithuania so far has not expressed its opinion on the date and place for signing the agreement, concludes the statement by the Belarusian Embassy.

RUSSIA

Komi Oil Spill

Ministry Calls Oil Spill 'Extremely Dangerous'

MM2710201594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Nature Itself Hampers the Commission From Determining the Scale of the Ecological Disaster in Komi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters has reported that this department's specialists cannot reach the region of the oil pipeline disaster near Usinsk because of weather conditions, and are stuck in Syktyvkar. The Ministry for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources [Minpriroda] confirms that its specialists, together with experts from the Roskomvod [Committee for Land Resources and Land Management], the Roskomgidromet [the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring], and the Roskomrybolovstvo [the Russian Federation Committee on Fishing] have also been forced to work with just documentation from Syktyvkar and are waiting for a plane to Usinsk.

The dearth of information from the not easily accessible region is giving rise to contradictory figures on the scale of the disaster. The Republic of Komi Minpriroda maintains that 14,033 tonnes of oil have leaked from the pipeline. The Republic of Komi's local civil defense staff increases this amount to 30,000 tonnes. According to the data of the Roskomgidromet, there are as much as 60,000 tonnes spilled on the ground. While U.S. sources cite a figure of 300,000 tonnes. The last figure provokes the indignation of all the Russian departments involved in the disaster. The suspicion is gradually being voiced that, by exaggerating the consequences of the industrial catastrophe, the Americans want to firmly establish their position in the exploitation of the natural resources of the Russian Far North.

It is hard to say whether or not this is so, but the prime cause of the furor is, without a doubt, our old and incurable illness—the cover-up, by departments, of information that is dangerous to them, their reluctance and inability to talk honestly with the public. The congenital

bureaucratic secrecy is injurious to the departments themselves and leads to seesaw changes in the figures and scale of pollution. Of all the state structures, according to my observations, only the Ministry of Atomic Energy is today distinguished by proper openness and promptness of response. But, God forbid that anyone should learn the hard way, as did the Ministry of Atomic Energy...

IZVESTIYA's correspondent managed to speak to the leader of the state commission, Yevgeniy Khaylov, who is still taciturn and extremely cautious in his appraisals. From his words it is possible to conclude that alarm over the incident is being sounded loudest by Nenets Autonomous Okrug Administration, which, incidentally, reports the largest Russian figure for the oil spill—more than 60,000 tonnes.

According to the most recent information, the level of pollution in the Pechora does not yet exceed the maximum permissible concentration, but at the point where the Usa flows into it the level of pollution already is already twice or three times the maximum permissible concentration. There is no oil slick on the Pechora, but an oil patch of up to 10 km long and 3 meters wide can be seen on the Usa. Oil patches on the river Kolva are also distinguished by their great size.

According to Russian standards, a level of oil pollution 30 times greater than the maximum permissible concentration is dangerous to the environment. At the most serious period of the disaster, pollution on the Kolva reached a level of 20 times the maximum permissible concentration. The worst (and so far not evaluated) pollution affected the Pechora swamps, and there is a danger that in the spring petroleum products which have accumulated there will be swept into the northern rivers by the spring waters. But so far the Roskomgidromet post 300 km from the scene of the disaster has not found traces of pollution in the tundra.

Minpriroda's official report assesses the disaster as environmentally extremely dangerous. Some independent experts doubt whether it will be possible in the tundra's fragile natural conditions to avert the wholesale pollution of the Pechora, the Barents Sea, and nearby regions of the Arctic. However, the position of the official departments is more restrained, and practically no doubts are being voiced as to the possibility of localizing the disaster.

Ministries Say Komi Authorities Underestimate Oil Spill

LD2810100994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The KomiNEFT [Komi Oil] joint-stock company should replace 52 kilometers of worn-out oil pipelines in the Usinsk area of the Komi Republic by 1 December this year. An accident occurred here in August which led to the spilling of up to 30,000 tonnes of oil products. The KomiNEFT company, the owner of the oil pipeline, intends to fully eliminate the consequences of the accident by 1 April next year.

Bibikov, deputy head of the Komi Republic government, today sent a telegram to the Ministry for Civil Defense,

Emergencies, and Natural Disasters saying that the situation in the area of the accident is under control, that the measures being taken are sufficient, and that there is no need for any help from the Emergencies Ministry or the Russian Environment Ministry.

However, the Russian Emergencies Ministry considers that the reports from the local authorities about the accident are incomplete and understated. Western experts also do not share the Komi authorities' optimism; they consider that the true scale of the disaster will become clear in a few months' time.

At present one thing is clear: this oil spill seriously threatens the fragile ecosystem of the Russian Arctic. [video shows damaged oil pipe, oil installations, spilled oil being gathered up]

Komi Appeals to 'Northern Forum' for Help With Oil Spill

LD2910104594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The governor of the Yamalo-Nenetskiy Autonomous Okrug and the president of the Komi Republic have requested the international Arctic organization Northern Forum for assistance in fighting the aftermath of the accident on the pipeline near the town of Usinsk.

A message sent to the Northern Forum headquarters in Anchorage in Alaska says that the accident could inflict considerable ecological, economic, and social damage.

According to the assessment of Western specialists, the oil pipeline burst could have more serious consequences than the American tanker disaster, one of the biggest in the world, near Alaska in 1989.

At the same time, according to the conclusions of a Russian special commission, the damage from the accident near Usinsk is less than expected.

Special Commission To Present True Data on Oil Spill

LD2910110294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A special commission of the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters is returning to Syktyvkar today from the site of the ecological disaster near Usinsk. The tasks of this commission included assessing the real scale of the oil spill as a result of the oil pipeline burst. It is expected that after a few days of work in the capital of the Komi Republic it will be able to present true data on the scale of the disaster and put an end to disputes over the quantity of spilt oil and the possible damage to the natural environment.

Previously THE NEW YORK TIMES had reported that the scale of the accident was extremely large. However, preliminary data from a Russian special commission had denied this report, a report by our correspondent in Syktyvkar says.

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Emergencies Ministry Says Media Exaggerates Komi Oil Spill

LD2910130494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1155 GMT 29 Oct 94

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 October—The scale of the accidents on the oil pipeline in the Komi republic in August-September of this year and their ecological consequences have been exaggerated by the foreign mass media, the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters believes.

The results of the work of the interdepartmental commission in the Komi republic, published today by the Ministry's press service, show that the "spread of most of the oil-containing liquid has been stopped on the marsh, streams, and water channels on the territory, adjacent to the site of the accident." The September high waters, which destroyed all dykes on the Palnik-Shor rivulet, caused some spreading of the oil products.

The removal of the oil slick, carried by the current and deposited on the bank of the Kolva River in the area of Kolva village, was completed before the onset of the freeze. On 26 October, 71.9 tonnes of oil-containing liquid remained on the banks of the Usa River, 1,560 tonnes remained on the Bemyannyy and Palnik-Shor rivulets, and 11,476.6 tonnes in other areas of the territory. The Ministry notes that there is no oil on the water of the Usa and Kolva rivers.

Further on Komi Oil Spill Commission Report

LD2910150694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1420 GMT 29 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Usinsk (Komi Republic), 29 Oct—The quantity of oil that leaked into the soil in the vicinity of the affected 50-km strip around the pipeline totals 14,033 tonnes, which tallies with the information given by the Komi Oil [Komineft] company. This was reported by the interdepartmental commission studying the situation in the disaster area, signed here on Friday evening. The commission stresses that the scale of the accident has been exaggerated in foreign press reports.

This conclusion was reached "after a helicopter overview of the affected area around the pipeline and a study of the information and calculations submitted by the headquarters of the clean-up operation and by other organizations," the document says.

At the same time, specialists in the Usinsk nature conservation and environmental protection committee think that 64,256 tonnes poured from the pipeline. The commission has decided that the information on the degree of pollution will be updated following processing of the results of the aerial photography and other studies. [passage omitted: names of ministries and committees represented on the commission]

As the report indicates, the disaster headquarters has carried out work to localize the sources of pollution and

to clean up the area. The spread of the oily fluid has, in the main, been stopped in the marshes and streams of the area adjacent to the accident site. Elimination of the after-effects of the accident will be completed before 1 April 1995.

Komi Commission says Oil Spill not 'Ecological Disaster'

LD2910204394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2029 GMT 29 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, October 29 TASS—The Komi Republic's commission for emergency situations, at its meeting on Saturday, arrived at a conclusion that the oil trunkline oil spill, which occurred in the republic's Usinsk district in August this year, has not developed into an ecological disaster.

The commission considered the results of the work done in Usinsk area by a special commission consisting of representatives from a number of ministries and departments of Russia, the Komi Republic, and the Nenets Autonomous District, and the current situation at the oil spill site. The commission's meeting was also attended by representatives from the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters.

Clean-up operations are being carried out satisfactorily, the Komi commission concluded. As of now, there is no film of oil products on the water surface in Usa and Kolva rivers. No signs have been found that the oil spill reached the Pechora River.

The oil spill has been blocked in swamps and a number of streams.

Clean-up operations will be paid for by the Komineft Pipeline Company.

The commission is of the opinion that no additional funds from federal sources are needed to finance clean-up operations. The commission agreed with estimates that all fines for above-limit pollution of the environment amount to more than 62,000 million rubles.

Measures have been planned to expedite the construction of a new pipeline in place of the breakdown section which is to be replaced by December 1, this year.

The Komineft company has been directed to draw up a detailed comprehensive plan to complete clean-up operations before April 1, 1995. It was also decided to work out and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent emergency situations which may arise if the oil spill reaches rivers.

The commission pointed out in its protocol that "all clean-up operations are being monitored by the government of the Komi Republic."

Minister Explains Lack of Information on Oil Spill

LD2910214094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Events in the capital and the major cities throughout the Russian Federation somehow diverted journalists' attention from the Russian North, from the scene of a tragedy in the Komi Republic. Western media, particularly in the Scandinavian countries, are sounding the alarm; the accident at the major northern oil pipeline near the town of Usinsk is described as nothing short of the catastrophe of the century. As usual, we have been keeping silent for quite a while. In the meantime the oil kept spilling—since August. [Passage omitted: geographical position of Usinsk; correspondent Yelena Golubeva recalls the silence over Chernobyl]

[Begin recording] [Golubeva] We learned of the oil spill in the Komi Republic, estimated at anything between 14,000 and 300,000 tonnes, from the NEW YORK TIMES, even though ... [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, minister of environmental protection and natural resources of the Russian Federation—identified by caption] As long ago as the last week of August local environmental bodies discovered about a dozen leaks in the pipeline.

[Golubeva] So why did the Russian side try to hush up the oil spill?

[Danilov-Danilyan] The oil there has a high concentration of paraffin. At 14°C it thickens and hardens, and any subsequent use of the pipeline becomes impossible if it is stopped. If the operation of the wells is stopped, the extraction of the casing-head gas will also stop, and the entire infrastructure of the adjacent regions relies on this gas as virtually the only fuel.

[Golubeva] And there is also another thing: the Komi administration has in effect got rid of the Russian committee for environmental protection by transforming it into a department in a republican ministry. Now, after the accident, everything has been reinstated.

If one company can conceal the oil spill, maybe this means that something's gone wrong in the overall system of environmental protection. Take satellite monitoring ...

[Danilov-Danilyan, interrupting] There is no satellite monitoring of such developments. It's all a myth.

[Golubeva] You mean, we haven't got it.

[Danilov-Danilyan] Precisely. We only have capacities for just one helicopter flight over the area once a month.

[Golubeva] So there. And meanwhile the U.S. energy secretary hopes to get a video recording of the accident any day now. No wonder that the West does not believe in Russia's technical capabilities and strives for our oil deposits. As for the director general of the Komi joint-stock company, who faces a fine of over 70 billion rubles, he believes the row over the accident has been stirred up to reduce the price of shares in the company.

The world, meanwhile, has long realized that it makes no sense, either in political or in economic terms, to hush up serious accidents. [end recording]

[Passage omitted: announcer says the oil spill is now covered by snow] Only by the beginning of May will it become known more precisely how much oil was spilled and whether we can prevent serious pollution to the Pechora, the Barents Sea and the nearby Arctic areas. [Passage omitted: concluding remarks] [Video shows the clearing-up operation, burning oil, pipelines and other oil facilities; minister interviewed in his office]

Spokesman Says Oil Spill 'Dangerous Ecological Situation'

MS3010123194 London THE SUNDAY TIMES
in English 30 Oct 94 p 23

[Report by Carey Scott in Moscow and Mark Franchetti: "Russia Wakes Up to Oil Catastrophe"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia is beginning to admit the catastrophic dimensions of the Arctic oil spill, which could devastate plant and animal life in one of the world's last wildernesses.

Aleksandre Shuvalov, chief spokesman for the Russian environment ministry, called the spill "a very dangerous ecological situation." He said 60,000 tonnes of oil, four times the previous Russian estimate, had been spilled. American estimates put it at 270,000 tonnes: this would make it eight times the size of the Exxon Valdez slick off Alaska in 1989.

Deep divisions among local and national administrators could put clean-up efforts in the affected area into even greater jeopardy, however.

The disaster originated when a leaky pipeline, owned by the Komi-Neft oil company, burst in late August. An earthen dam built to contain the oil then broke on September 26 after heavy rain, releasing oil into surrounding swamps and into the Pechora river system.

If the oil is not cleared before spring, thousands of migratory birds, including several rare species such as the bewick's swan, could be put at risk. Environmentalists fear the oil could flow down the Pechora river, where salmon spawn in spring, and into the Barents Sea.

Inhabitants of Ust-Usa, a village on the banks of the Pechora river, 40 miles from the spill, said that the river water was contaminated with oil, and that fish caught in the river were inedible and smelled of oil. Globes of crude oil lay by the side of the river and chunks of grey ice floated in smelly black slush.

Pechora river fishermen a further 200 miles downstream said their nets were covered with oil, and local officials said the oil had also contaminated the waters of the Kolva and Usa rivers, which flow into the Barents Sea.

Valentin Leonidov, general director of Komi-Neft, which owns and operates the faulty pipeline, poured scorn on fears of disaster, however. "It's not a catastrophe," he said.

Contacted at his headquarters in the city of Ukhta, Leonidov said: "It would be an ecological catastrophe if something or someone had suffered. But we have cleaned up the banks of the Kolva and Usa rivers, and the spill has been contained."

Leonidov stuck to his company's original spill estimate of 14,000 tonnes, a quarter of the environment ministry's estimate, denying that plants and wildlife would be harmed by the accident.

He said the oil remaining in the swamps would be cleaned up during the winter. Leonidov also said he doubted whether the oil would damage the fragile tundra. "It won't have a dangerous effect," he said.

Vyacheslav Bibikov, the Komi republic's vice-president, also played down the importance of the spill. "It was a local incident," he said.

In Moscow, Shuvalov was sceptical of their assertions. "For some reason, the people in Komi think this problem will just go away by itself," he said. "But it won't."

He said he hoped the spill could be cleaned up by the spring, when migrating birds will return to the tundra. He added however, that the oil-polluted land may be uninhabitable.

"The one thing I can say for sure," said Shuvalov, "is that it is clear that the cold will be the savior of this situation." The freezing Arctic temperatures will transform the oil into a thick, unmoving sludge, which will be much easier to clean up than liquid oil.

Shuvalov said attempts to contain the ecological damage would continue throughout the winter despite the extreme cold.

The northern tundra, exploited for years by Russian oil drillers, already bears the signs of ruthless development. The wrecks of disused rigs litter the landscape, and from the air the tire tracks left by lorries are clearly visible on the delicate soil below. The topsoil is so thin that the treads of a single vehicle take 25 years to disappear.

For all the Western concern over the ecological impact of the spill on Russia's already poisoned environment, however, the reaction within Russia has been extremely muted.

Shuvalov said that although European, American, Australian and Japanese organisations had contacted him for information, Russian journalists had so far expressed little interest, revealing a deep-seated indifference to yet another ecological problem.

Shuvalov said the spill had been widely reported in the local Komi press long before the information was released by the American government, but it was ignored by Russia's national media.

Ecologists Say Oil Spill Got Into Pechora River.

LD3110101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0942 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—Russian ecologists sounded alarm on Monday saying the

major oil spill in the Russian north got in the Pechora River and is moving towards the Barents Sea.

Vladimir Zamoyskiy, an expert of the Russian Social-Ecological Union, told TASS on Monday that some 200,000 tonnes of oil had been spilled between July 1 and October 31 on a 50-kilometre section of the pipeline going across the Russian northern republic of Komi.

Officially, the figure is slightly above 14,000 tonnes and representatives of the "Kominest" company running the pipeline said the oil had not reached the major Pechora River.

Zamoyskiy said his union and the Russian Greenpeace union had completed checking the environment in hard-to-access areas near the city of Usinsk.

According to him, oil got into the Pechora River via its tributaries Usa and Kolva which flow into Pechora 600 kilometres away from its mouth.

Zamoyskiy said Russian ecologists have drafted a programme to eliminate the consequences of the catastrophe and have forwarded it to the ecological security commission at the Russian president.

It is proposed, in particular, to compile by April 1995 a detailed map of the polluted area by means of air survey and to immediately begin blocking the damaged part of the pipeline by stationary dams. The reconstruction of the 50-km long section should be conducted simultaneously.

According to the social-ecological union, it will be possible to recultivate polluted territories by 1997, provided there is sufficient financing.

The union estimated the cost of work in the first six months at 200 billion roubles (some 70 million U.S. dollars).

Moscow To Use Satellites To Observe Komi Oil Spill

LD3110115194 Moscow Ostankino Television First
Channel Network in Russian 0852 GMT 31 Oct 94

[From the "Novosti" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A special commission from the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters, which has arrived in the Republic of Komi following an oil leakage from the main pipeline, has decided that the accident site is to be surveyed from space.

Initial Figures on Komi Oil Spill Disputed

LD3110201294 Moscow Ostankino Television First
Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Report over video by correspondent Anna Nevskaya with recorded remarks by Valentin Leonidov, director general of the Kominest joint stock company and Natalya Rubanova, member of the environmental commission—identified by caption; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The elimination of the consequences of the accident on the oil pipeline in the Republic of Komi continues. In the first few days, following the publication of the data about the oil spill, many commentators described what happened in the area of

Usinsk as an environmental disaster. Specialists are insisting on the term "accident."

[Nevskaya] [video shows man shovelling oil with a spade by the shore] First about figures. IZVESTIYA has reported that according to preliminary reports, the estimated amount of the oil spilled is 300,000 tonnes. Our media reported right after the accident that 200,000 tonnes of petrochemicals had been spilled. However, the oilmen themselves actively denied it.

[Leonidov] You know this figure is completely absurd. We just do not recover enough oil to have 200,000 tonnes spilled. A sensible figure is 14,000 tonnes. It can indeed be confirmed.

[Rubanova] But Valentin Leonidov is an interested party. The Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters on the other hand, knew about what had happened. According to the criteria accepted in our country, we deem a situation to be a catastrophe if the content of certain petrochemicals in waterways exceeds 10 times the permissible limit. That is exactly the situation to be observed in the Republic of Komi, and this is why we use the word catastrophe to describe it.

[Announcer] As our correspondent was told by Vyacheslav Bibikov, the deputy head of the Republic of Komi, the situation in Usinsk is being monitored by Ministry of Nature experts and hydrogeologists. The main task is to prevent the oil from getting into the rivers Usa and Pechora.

U.S. Experts To Visit Site of Oil Spill in Komi

LD3110155294 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1401 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Ministry for Fuel and Energy expressed gratitude to the U.S. Department of Energy for its offer to send a group of experts to the Komi Republic. According to sources in the ministry, this proposal will be considered after the Commission for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters of the Komi Republic finishes its work.

A well-informed source told the Petroleum Information Agency that the investigation carried out by the Commission revealed that 14,033 [metric] tonnes of oil had spilt over as a result of the accident on an oil pipeline.

This source also said that more than 1,000 tonnes of oil had been collected. The oil spills on streams and rivers have been localized by hydraulic systems. The Commission reports that the Pechora River has not been polluted. Experts of the Ministry for Fuel and Energy assert that oil cannot get either into large fresh-water reservoirs in the Komi Republic or the Nenets Autonomous Districts, or into the Barents Sea.

The collection of oil and clean-up operations continue. The local ecological services report that the clean-up operations are to be finished by April 1, 1995.

Nenets To Ask Western Firms To Help Prevent Spread of Oil Spill

LD3110181194 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1624 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The administration of the Nenets Autonomous Area, beyond the Polar Circle, intends to appeal to foreign firms to help prevent the spread of the oil slick from the neighboring Komi Republic, the Petroleum Information Agency was told by the Area governor Yuriy Komarovskiy. "We are very much concerned over the situation in Komi," he said.

He said that Nenets did not yet feel the aftermath of the disaster at the oil pipeline. However, the Nenets administration plans to take measures to prevent possible pollution of the Pechora River. Nenets intends to establish contacts with foreign firms in time to prepare for this year's spring floods.

Meanwhile, a Russian Federation interdepartmental commission working last week in the disaster area came to the conclusion that the disaster was an ecological catastrophe. According to the leadership of the Komineft joint stock company, which owns the pipeline, since August oil leakage from the pipeline amounted to 14,000 tonnes, while Western media puts the figure at hundreds of thousands of tonnes.

Komi Oil Company Tried To Cover Up Pipeline Spill

LD011152094 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1910 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Commentary by science correspondent Boris Belitskiy on oil spill in Russia's north]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The scene of the accident is the country's Arctic region—to be exact, an area of bogs and lakes 200 miles south of the Arctic Ocean and about 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle—the cause, an oil pipeline rupture.

There is heated controversy over the scale of the disaster.

The United States Department of Energy—astonishingly the first to announce the spill to the world—put the scale of the accident at eight times the scale of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, considered up to now to have been the worst oil spill in history. This has been angrily denied by the authorities in the Komi Autonomous Republic, the scene of the spill, and by the Komi oil company which operates the culprit pipeline.

But even if the oil company is to be believed—and it's widely suspected of a coverup—its figures put the scale of the accident at double the Exxon disaster.

The Russian environmental authorities see American reports as being hugely exaggerated and prompted by an ulterior motive: namely, vengeance on the part of companies that did not get their share of the Komi oil pot. If that is true, and to some extent it may well be true, this has been vengeance with a gusto. Komi oil shares, which had been rising steadily, have just plunged by as much as three dollars a share. However, according to the latest reports from Russian experts who have been working

there with Greenpeace, the oil has reached the Pechora River—a 200-meter-wide river which flows into the Barents Sea—and the total amount spilled is now estimated at 200,000 tons.

Undoubtedly the oil company attempted a cover-up, belittling the actual scale of the damage. Specialists from Moscow are continuing a helicopter survey at the scene of the spill to assess the real scale of the damage even more accurately. Work has also begun to replace the damaged segment of the pipeline, but this is bound to be hampered by the early winter in those areas. In fact, snow is already beginning to blanket the spill and it's hard to see how a full-scale cleanup can be carried out before the early spring, at the very earliest.

Just the initial stage of the cleanup will cost 200 billion rubles, or \$70 million in the first six months.

The accident has raised many questions:

Why were the Americans the first to alert the world to the fact that the spill had occurred? Why were there no reports from the service that operates Russia's earth-sensing satellites?

As for conclusions, while some of the American reports were indeed clearly exaggerated, local Komi attempts at a cover-up tend to undermine the credibility of their counter-arguments.

Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine have adopted a joint scientific and technical program for joint research on a theory of pipeline reliability, which actually does not yet exist. Clearly there is a need for broader cooperation on such a project.

Komi Leader: No Outside Help Needed With Oil Spill

*LD3110192194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1843 GMT 31 Oct 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syktyvkar, 31 Oct—The government of the Komi Republic considers it will be able to cope single-handedly with the aftermath of the accident at the Usinsk oil pipeline, Yuriy Spiridonov, head of the Komi Republic, told ITAR-TASS today.

He said there was no need for external help. He was referring to the recent proposal by the governor of Alaska that American experts be sent to the Usinsk area. "There is no need for such help. The Komi Republic is capable of coping by itself with the consequences of the ruptures in the pipeline that developed in August-September."

Yuriy Spiridonov said he "does not regard the accident as an ecological disaster."

Commission Says Komi Oil Spill Not Environmental Disaster

*LD0111132094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1223 GMT 1 Nov 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usinsk November 1 TASS—The recent accident at the Usinsk oil pipeline in Komi was not an environmental disaster, was the conclusion of a governmental commission of experts from ministries and departments of Russia and its Republic of Komi and the Nenets autonomous area.

The commission's report was finished today, saying: "It was concluded from visual examination of the terrain invaded by oil-containing fluid from the site of the oil pipeline accident that the leak caused no global environmental pollution, and is not definable as an environmental accident."

As it had been reported earlier, scores of leaks had occurred in August and September this year at the pipeline's dysfunctional segment. Different estimates put volumes of oil leaks at 14,000 to 60,000 tonnes.

According to the commission, "The Pechora water basin is objectively prone to pollution by oil-containing fluid during spring floods." Therefore, consequences of the accident must be abolished before April 1, 1995, the commission said.

Komi Government Blames U.S. Interests for Fuss Over Spill

*LD0111194594 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Nov 94*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ye. Kuznetsov] On 1 November the Komi government analyzed the official documents from the federation and republican government commissions and also documents on the financial and production activity of the Komi-Neft (Komi oil) group in connection with the accident on the main oil pipeline in the area of Usinsk which took place on 12 August.

The facts in this case are: Exactly 14,033 tonnes of spilled oil; 26.6 hectares of polluted territory; and 62 billion rubles in ecological fines imposed on the Komi-Neft group. All the rest is supplied by the commercial interests of American financial and industrial circles and very big politics connected with the American doctrine, renewed by Bill Clinton, of the unconditional primacy of the United States throughout the world.

This conclusion was reached by the Komi top leadership, which simply invites the public to consider the following facts and to compare them. The fuss about the local accident in Usinsk—which was not registered by a single spy satellite—was raised urgently by U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary William White two and half months after the accident and two weeks after the accident at the pipeline in Texas where, according to data from the Russian side, a pipe 1 meter in diameter—which is one and half times bigger than the Usinsk—spilled up to 65,000 tonnes of oil. Three workers were killed in the incident.

The shares of the Komi-Neft group after 25 October, that is after the statement by the American official, fell from 29.4 to 10.1 dollars each. On 26 October, foreign, including American, companies began actively to buy them up.

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Pechora Basin Endangered by Usinsk Oil Spill*LD0111175694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1622 GMT 1 Nov 94**[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Usinsk (Komi Republic), 1 November—The accident on the Usinsk oil pipeline in Komi is not an ecological catastrophe, but the danger still remains that the basin of the Pechora River may become polluted. This is the conclusion reached by the commission of governmental departments of Russia, the Komi Republic, and the Nenets National Okrug. The report issued today stresses: "As a result of visual inspection of the territory over which the oil-containing liquid has spread from the site of the local accident on the oil pipeline, the conclusion has been drawn that the accident has not led to global pollution of the environment. [passage omitted: background of oil spill]"

The Nature Ministry of the Republic of Komi has imposed a fine of over R62,000 million on the Komi Oil joint stock company for polluting the environment. The procuracy of the Komi Republic has instituted criminal proceedings in connection with the accident.

The first stage of work to clear up the aftermath of the accident has been completed. The oil did not get into the Pechora River and certainly not into the Barents Sea. However, in the opinion of the commission, "objectively, there is still a danger that the Pechora basin may become polluted during the spring highwaters." There is still about 11,500 tonnes of oil on the ground, mainly in swamps. It is proposed to remove the spilled oil after the swamps have frozen and before next April.

Additional measures have been taken to ensure safety on the section of the pipe where the accident occurred: there has been a reduction in pressure and in the volumes of oil transported, and checks are being carried out daily. In December it is planned to put into operation a new 52-km long pipeline to replace the section where the accident occurred.

It is not possible to stop operating this section of the oil pipeline immediately, since this would cause the cessation of all oil extraction in the Pechora Basin, including the sites run by a Russian-U.S. company on the Ardalinskoye field. Fuel supplies would also be halted at a number of major settlements in the region, including Usinsk, and it would become necessary in the winter weather to evacuate the local population.

Shoygu: Oil Spill 'Curbed'; Total Spilled 14,033 Tonnes*LD0111171994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1658 GMT 1 Nov 94**[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—"The Usinsk oil pipeline accident has been curbed," Russian Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters Sergey Shoygu told a meeting of the Russian Government commission here today.

In his words, 14,033 tonnes of oil spilled at an area of 62 square kilometers. The accident took place on an area of five kilometers. A total of 11,500 tonnes of oil remain uncollected. The overall damage is estimated at 62 billion rubles.

The restoration spending will reach 50 billion rubles. It will be carried by the Komineft joint stock society. Some 52 kilometers of the pipeline will be replaced before January 1, 1995. No federal budget money will be allocated.

In his turn, Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik believes that the pipeline control system worked normally. He said that objective reasons for the accident were the worn-out pipeline (put into commission in 1975) and the absence of money for planned replacement of pipeline parts. Unskillful oil collection which resulted in the oil spread to river flood-lands was a subjective reason for the accident.

Shoygu and Shafranik agreed that the majority of reports on the accident, mainly those of the foreign press, do not correspond to the reality. Many of these reports claimed an oil spill of 300,000 tonnes. Bearing in mind the pipeline capacity of 16,000 tonnes per day, the pipeline would have had to work completely for a month, said Shoygu.

The dike around the pipeline, damaged in February 1994, was washed out by pouring rains on October 1 in the Usinsk area. This resulted in an oil spill into the local rivers of Kolva and Usa, whose banks do not carry either water inlets or populated localities. The oil film was ten centimeters thick in the Kolva creeks. Both rivers run into the Pechora River, which was not polluted according to the results of an inspection.

The latter is hampered by the fact the oil has mostly spilled in swamps, and it is practically impossible to land there. Huge areas are covered with an oil film several dozens of centimeters thick, oil is reported from low lands and gorges. This will inevitably result in the death of upper soil layers, flora and fauna. The accident aftermath will be completed by April 1, 1995.

Updated Figures on Oil Spill Expected in Three Weeks*LD0111141894 Moscow Ostankino Television First
Channel Network in Russian 1252 GMT 1 Nov 94**[From the "Novosti" program]*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mass media attention to the accident at the Usinsk oil pipeline is unwavering. Environmentalists have said the total amount of oil spilled is 200,000 tonnes. But the accident necessitates a more thorough examination with regard to the damage to the environment, because:

[Unidentified reporter over video of clearing-up operations] According to the data provided by experts and Greenpeace campaigners, the estimated amount of oil that poured out [of the pipeline] is now about 300,000 tonnes. The oil industry people say such claims are absurd. In the view of Valentin Leonidov, the real figure is 14,000 tonnes. Danilov-Danilyan, the environment minister, shares this view.

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[Begin Danilov-Danilyan recording] We are expecting updated figures obtained *a posteriori*, following the analysis of the data from aerial inspections, to come through after 20 November, that is in about three weeks. Then we shall be able to judge more accurately whether the spillage amounts to 14,000 tonnes or a little bit more. I do not rule out the possibility that it is a little bit more than that. But the figures cited by the foreign press, 200,000 or 300,000 tonnes, are a complete fantasy. This cannot physically be true. What with the registered leaks—and I can assure that all leaks have been registered—it is a physical impossibility. [end recording]

[Unidentified journalist] And yet, as usual, the question of whether the state ecologists or the independent experts have got it wrong remains open.

'Soviet System' Blamed for Komi Oil Spill

MM0211142594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 1 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Ilin, staffer of "Komineft" Joint-Stock Company Press Service, under the "Disasters" rubric: "Who Is To Blame for the Ecological Drama in the North?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For two months now our press, as well as Russia's television and "Ostankino," has been returning over and over again to the topic of the ecological disaster which has erupted near Usinsk, close to the Arctic Circle, on the oil pipeline from Vozey to Golovnyye Sooruzheniya. This time these voices of alarm have even been joined by the Americans. Following a report on the accident in THE NEW YORK TIMES, which equated it almost with the Chernobyl accident, I was inundated with telephone calls from representatives of foreign news agencies, newspapers, and television companies, including Japanese and Scandinavian ones. They are all concerned about the question of whether the facts cited in the U.S. newspaper correspond to the truth. As usual, journalists are ready to rush to the scene of the event. My reply to them all is this: Yes, the accident is serious, but its scale has been greatly exaggerated by the transatlantic newspaper. By approximately 20 times. What, then, actually happened?

The calamity occurred in August, when streams of petroleum-containing liquid gushed from some 20 flaws in an almost 50-km section of pipe, killing everything living. In all, as shown by instruments in the oil-recording centers, in the course of the accident 14,033 tonnes of oil, or approximately 30,000 tonnes of petroleum-containing liquid, was spilled over a vast area of the fragile northern land.

The word "unexpected" is not at all fitting for this ecological tragedy. In recent years oil workers had been expecting it at any moment and had taken all possible measures to put off the calamity. They had more than once sounded the alarm over the lack of a reserve oil pipeline. Local accidents which had occurred earlier had also put them on their guard.

As much as a decade ago an oil flow also from neighboring Kharyaga and, later, from other northern fields too had started to be "appended" to the underground mainline from Vozey to Golovnyye Sooruzheniya. But as soon as they connected the oil pipeline from Kharyaga to Severnyy

Vozey to this mainline and brought the field into industrial operation, funding for the construction of a continuation of the separate Kharyaga line to Golovnyye Sooruzheniya was at once suspended. "Komineft" has now been constructing this oil pipeline with its own meager funds for two years. Only now is construction work being accelerated.

So the roots of the present Usinsk calamity lie in the recent past, in the Soviet system at the time for managing the oil industry. The time bomb which went off in August had been put in place exactly two decades ago, when this oil pipeline was being constructed. Dazzled by the flow of petrodollars, the sector's ruling bosses "forked out" for the oil industry just enough so that the "milk cow" could bring in more and more currency. The production and social infrastructure was developed and new fields provided with facilities to the absolute minimum level and on time scales lacking an adequate safety margin or any serious ecological expertise. The oil workers were required only to maintain rigidly the pace of the attack on new deposits, so as to give the motherland more and more oil every year. The entire history of the opening up of fields in the Far North is living testimony to this. Today we are reaping the fruits of that ruinous policy.

Today, however, it is necessary not only to look for the sources of the calamity. Vigorous practical actions are needed to eliminate the consequences and to avoid a repeat of accidents similar to the one in August. But what has been and is being done to eliminate the accident and its consequences and to recompense the inhabitants of riverside villages for the damage done? During the first hours after information about the accident was received, work began in Usinsk to eliminate the flaws, to build a bypass loop oil pipeline, and to construct hydraulic seals on the nearby Palnikshor and Bezmyannyy streams which would bar the oil's path to the Kolva River. At the same time measures were taken to restrict oil extraction and transportation: By the end of August oil extraction had already been halted from 92 wells, and on 6 September, when the loop was connected to the main oil pipeline, extraction was stopped from a further 643 wells. In addition to the hydraulic seals, booms have been set up on the Kharyaga River and the streams. All the available equipment at enterprises of the "Komineft" Joint-Stock Company—bog excavators, gusher loaders, vacuum barrels, and vacuum oil skimmers—has been mobilized to eliminate the consequences of the oil spill. The collecting of oil and oil-containing liquid and the cleaning of the streams and their banks from pollution are not ceasing for a single day. All the work is being done strictly to schedule and under the control of the commission for emergency situations under the Komi Republic Government. The "Komineft" staff reports back daily on the work done.

By way of compensation for the damage done to agricultural production in the village of Kolva, the "Komineft" Joint-Stock Company is transferring free of charge to the villagers the sovkhos branch located there with fixed capital worth a total of 5 billion rubles, including over 400 head of cattle (including 208 milk cows), premises to hold livestock, and new shops fitted with equipment for milk and meat processing. In addition, the joint-stock company

pledges to construct in 1995 a gas pipeline to the village of Kolva and a gas distribution point in it and to improve the road network in Kolva.

It was not, however, possible to avoid grave consequences entirely. The matter was exacerbated by torrential fall rain, which in places washed away the hydraulic seals, and the oil flow streamed across the second "line of defense" and entered the Usa River. Of course, this increased the gravity of the consequences, but flyovers showed that the disaster had not affected the chief water artery—the Pechora. Its water and banks remained clean.

Only next spring will show how accurately and fully "Kominest" has implemented the ecological program which has been outlined to eliminate the aftermath of the August accident. Meanwhile, according to the specialists' most modest estimates, the joint-stock company's losses from the reduction in the volumes of oil extraction in August and September and from the unplanned expenditure on emergency reconstruction work and compensation are quite comparable with the expenditure which the former leadership of the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry did not wish to spend in the past on constructing a reserve oil pipeline.

Russia has taken over all the foreign debts of the former USSR to creditors. But, if we recall the sea of petrodollars with which the oil industry has supplied the whole country, is the time not ripe for the Russian Government to compensate its own people at least partially—those who are continuing to replenish the state treasury, while they themselves are choking from lack of money?

Civil Defense Minister Shoygu on Komi Oil Spill

LD0211145594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian, in its "Novosti" newscast at 0852 GMT on 2 November, broadcasts a two-minute report on the Komi oil spill in which television correspondent Aleksandr Korovkin interviews Sergey Kuzhugotov Shoygu, minister for civil defense, emergencies, and natural disasters. The latter states that "this accident is not of an interregional, cross-frontier nature and we cannot assess the situation as a catastrophe." Korovkin notes that this was the main conclusion of the commission of the Ministry for Emergency Situations (Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters) which has completed a study on the state of affairs along the pipeline. Korovkin adds that there will be a threat of further pollution during the spring flooding in the Pechora river basin. He claims that more than 14,000 tonnes of oil have leaked out because of the irresponsibility of the pipeline owners and that these figures are being checked with the help of aerial photographs. He says Komi's nature conservation ministry is suing Kominest (Komi oil) company for 62,236,000,000 rubles. Criminal proceedings have also been instituted. Shoygu states that "the section which has been most subject to corrosion, a five-km section, has been completely replaced. The pumping of oil to the section of pipeline has stopped for the moment. At the present time a more lengthy part of the

pipeline, 52 km long, is being replaced. Replacement will be completed in December."

The video footage shows the interview with Shoygu, oil wells, and the clear-up operation in the countryside.

Oil Spill Said Blown Up by U.S. as New Facts Come to Light

MK0211090094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
2 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Yevgeniy Kuznetsov from Syktyvkar in the "Consequences" column: "The State Commission on the Usinsk Accident Sums Up Results. Komi President Believes That United States 'Is Seeking To Establish Tough Economic Control of Russian Territory'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 November the Komi government considered the results of work by the state federal and republic commissions following the accident on the oil pipeline in the area of Usinsk, and established the final size of the oil spill: 14,033 tonnes. These data are based on analysis of documents by both commissions and also the oil and gas administration Usinsktermest, and the Russian-Canadian and Russian-U.S. joint ventures Komiark-tikol and Nobiloil, which operate the oil pipeline.

From the overall quantity of the spill, approximately 2,000 tonnes got into the Kolva River after the dam on swamp oil collectors was ruptured as a result of a flood 28 September. All in all, 26.6 hectares were polluted. According to the commission, as of 31 October, 11,200 tonnes of oil were left to clean up in the oil collectors. The spill is planned to be fully cleaned up before 1 April 1995. A suit worth 62 billion rubles has been filed against the Kominest group.

In an exclusive interview for SEGODNYA, Yuriy Spiridonov, head of the Komi Republic, said that "the local accident on the oil pipeline in Usinsk has been blown up by U.S. government officials exclusively in the commercial interests of U.S. financial-industrial circles interested in participating in the development of the Timano-Pechorsk project, agreement on which was reached during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States." Spiridonov stated that "through ecology, the Americans, in the spirit of Bill Clinton's latest doctrine about the United States' incontestable lead in the world, is trying to establish tough economic control of Russian territory."

Yuriy Spiridonov considers this factor central in the Usinsk case when, following a statement by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy White, a common accident, unrecorded by any of the space satellites, 2.5 months later took on the character of a global ecological catastrophe. After the statement by the U.S. official about 2 million barrels of oil being spilled in Usinsk, the shares of the Kominest group fell from \$20.40 to \$10.10. They began to be actively bought up by large oil companies, including U.S. companies working in the neighboring Nenets National Okrug: Conoco, and Brown and Root, which would like to make use of the new oil pipeline just about to be put into operation by the Kominest group, giving these companies access to the center of Russia.

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The Komi leadership is particularly concerned by the spread of false information about oil getting into the Pechora River and the Barents Sea. They consider this impossible, because the Usinsk oil got into the Kolva river, and as early as 4 October exhaustive measures were taken to localize the source of pollution. The Kolva falls into the Usa, while the Usa flows into the Pechora, where no oil spots have been found. Meanwhile, the Komi government is in possession of a number of confidential data indicating that in the period from 21 through 24 October three foreign tankers, which ran into a heavy storm in the Barents Sea, had to dump oil in order not to capsize. The aggregate dumping volume is estimated at 25,000 tonnes.

The session pointed out that the Komi government will not object to foreign assistance in cleaning up the spill in Usinsk, provided these proposals are mutually beneficial. So far only the proposal by the state of Alaska, whose governor is flying to Komi on the evening of 1 November, has been chosen.

U.S. Company Involvement in Oil Spill 'Racket' Denied

LD0211151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1454 GMT 2 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usinsk November 2 TASS—The U.S. oil company "Conoco" has decisively refuted today some reports appearing in the Russian and foreign press, alleging that it is the initiator of and an active participant in the racket around the leakage of oil from the pipeline in the Usinsk area.

"Conoco" is taking part in extracting oil in the Ardalinsk oil field in the Nenets autonomous region and transports the oil-containing fluid by the same main pipeline to main oil-refining facilities near Usinsk.

An official statement from John Horning, president of "Conoco," addressed to Head of the Komi Republic Yuriy Spiridonov and officials of the holding company "Komi Tek" and joint-stock company "Kombineph," was received today.

The statement emphasised that "Conoco" neither informed the media of the accident nor gave them any film of this incident nor stated its views regarding the scale of the accident. According to Horning, "Conoco" is working in a remote oil field and does not have at its disposal reports about the real state of affairs on the site of the accident, and the same information was furnished to journalists and the U.S. government.

Simultaneously, the head of "Conoco" assured that the company never tried to undermine the reputation of the joint-stock company "Kombineph."

Komi Authorities Acted Slowly To Avoid 'Social Explosion'

LD0211164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1140 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The absence of timely and accurate information on the accident at the oil pipeline near

Usinsk from the leadership of the Republic of Komi and the joint stock company Kombineph, to which the pipeline belongs, was caused to a certain degree by the desire to avoid a social explosion in the region. Russia's environmental protection and natural resources minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan declared in an exclusive interview with the Petroleum Information Agency.

In his words, during the closing of the pipeline, oil "would have congealed" in the wells themselves and it would have been necessary to put them out of operation. In this case extraction of casing-head gas would be stopped. The whole local power engineering system depends upon this gas and the region could be placed on the threshold of a social explosion, Danilov-Danilyan reported.

He reconfirmed that currently the minimum volume of spilled oil amounts to 14,000 tonnes.

At the same time Danilov-Danilyan described information from Western media about the spilling of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of oil "as pure fantasy." He believes that the campaign being waged by Western media, which assesses the accident in Komi as the greatest accident of the century (according to their data, the leakage of oil was eight times greater than that which occurred in the accident with the tanker Exxon Valdez near the Alaska coast in 1989), was stirred up in the interests of foreign oil firms. The situation in Komi, Danilov-Danilyan said, is also used to bring down the price on shares of Russian oil companies.

U.S. Governor, Company Chiefs Arrive To Inspect Oil Spill

LD0211133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1247 GMT 2 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usinsk November 2 TASS—Alaska governor Walter Hickel and heads of five American companies arrived in the Russian northern republic of Komi on Wednesday to inspect a major oil spill which has recently occurred there and decide on possible assistance.

Head of the Komi Republic Yuriy Spiridonov told TASS that the republic can fight the spill itself, but is ready to consider proposals on delivering new progressive technologies and equipment to the spill area.

The equipment, according to Spiridonov, should boost the efficiency of clean-up work and ensure safe operation of oil pipelines.

On Wednesday the Alaska governor will visit the spill area and on Thursday he will travel to the major Pechora river. Reports said that the spilled oil had already reached the river and is moving towards the Barents Sea.

Administration Head on Alaskan Visitor, Oil Spill Cleanup

MM0311133594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Governor of Alaska Arrives at Accident Site Near Usinsk. Oil Workers Themselves Are Anxious About the Price of Their Shares"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Cleanup operations at the site of the pipeline accident near Usinsk, as a result of which a huge quantity of oil spilled onto the land, are continuing. Despite the abundance of experts and commissions working in the region, the real scale of the disaster has yet to be established.

It became known to us that the governor of the U.S. state of Alaska, accompanied by a group of U.S. experts, arrived in Naryan-Mar 1 November. The aim of the visit is to define possible options for ecological aid. In the view of Yuriy Komarovskiy, head of Nenets National Okrug Administration, the Americans' attention to the ecological disaster can be attributed to the fact that several joint ventures are already operating in the Russian tundra. However, as Yu. Komarovskiy admitted in a conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent, it is difficult as yet to hold business-like talks with the visitors from the United States, insofar as the results of the ecological analysis of the oil disaster are slow in coming.

But another department—the Republic of Komi Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources—has already added everything up and lodged an action against the Komineft Joint-Stock Company for damages of 62,236,350,000 rubles [R]. The damage done to deer pastures and forest plantations is still being ascertained. The Republic of Komi Prosecutor's Office has instigated criminal proceedings for the cause of the accident.

The Komineft Joint-Stock Company itself categorically disagrees with the appraisal of the accident as an ecological disaster. At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders, Company General Director Valentin Leonidov drew attention to his theory that the hullabaloo around the pretty insignificant accident is being fueled by those who would like to buy shares in the Komineft Joint-Stock Company on the cheap. (Before the report of the disaster, the price of shares hit \$28 dollars against a face value of R100.) According to his information, such accidents occur just as frequently in Tyumen, and sometimes they even occur in Texas. Valentin Leonidov stressed that many would like to participate in opening up oil and gas deposits in the Timano-Pechora Basin, but they do not have the legal opportunities to do this.

Proceeding from these beliefs, the Komineft Joint-Stock Company, according to unofficial sources, has refused the free aid which was offered independently by the Nordic Forum and the governor of Alaska (even before his visit). The proposed amount of aid is \$10 million.

The Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Resources commission completed its work on the site of the accident 31 October. The commission's verdict boils down to the point that the accident cannot be considered incidental or unexpected—its inevitability was prompted by the facility owners' inadequate responsibility for its safety. Right now, the Komineft Joint-Stock Company is constructing a new oil pipeline spanning 52 km, and additional safety measures have been adopted on the section of the accident. Construction should be completed in December 1994, and the clean-up work by 1 April 1995.

But obviously, other sections of this pipeline, which was commissioned in 1975, are also in a bad state of repair.

Would it not be better, rather than patching up the holes, to close it down pending a complete solution to the problem? On this score, the Komineft Joint-Stock Company and the Republic of Komi leadership are fully agreed: The oil pipeline cannot be allowed to cease operation altogether. This would mean that all oil extraction in the Pechora Basin would grind to a halt, and energy supplies to major population centers in the winter period would be cut off.

The main danger for the region stems from pollution of the Pechora water basin during the spring floods. As yet, it seems, the oil is concentrated only in the marshes. Experts intend to set about cleaning up the marshes as soon as they freeze over. Even according to the most modest estimates being presented to the public by Komineft, around 11.5 tonnes of petroleum products still remain on the land. Yuriy Komarovskiy, governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, noted that all work as of today boils down to the most primitive collection of the pollutant using spades. This method is unlikely to encourage the hope that the work will be completed by the scheduled date.

Nordeco Experts Say 103,000 Tonnes of Oil Leaked in Komi

LD0211212694 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1956 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The joint Russian-American Nordeco venture found that about 103,000 tonnes of oil had leaked from a pipeline in the vicinity of Usinsk, Komi Republic, sources in Arkhangelsk regional administration told the Petroleum Information Agency.

The company took air photographs of the polluted area immediately after the announcement of the disaster. By unofficial reports, Nordeco disregarded the amounts of oil in nearby lakes.

According to an Emergencies Ministry commission, a total of 14,033 tonnes leaked from the Komineft company's pipeline.

Informed sources told the Petroleum Information Agency that Alaskan Governor Walter Hickel visited Syktyvkar, the Komi capital, on November 1 and 2 to coordinate the possible aid to the affected area in dealing with the consequences of the leak. Hickel is said to intend to fly to Usinsk and later to Naryan-Mar, the administrative center of the Nenets Autonomous Area.

Yuriy Spiridonov, head of the Komi Republic, has repeatedly said that the republic did not need foreign aid to deal with the consequences of the leak while Yuriy Komarovskiy, governor of the Nenets Area, does not rule out the aid of foreign companies in preventing the spread of the oil spill from the Komi Republic.

Komi Oil Spill Commission Findings Questioned

MM0311113394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Andrey Pavlov: "Komi Catastrophe: Your Mission, Commission?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The commission to investigate the environmental situation on the territory of the Republic of

Komi's Usinskiy Rayon has completed its work. Taking part were representatives of Russia's Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Russian Committee for Water Resources, the Russian Committee for Fishing, and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial office has managed to get hold of the commission's concluding document. It is clear from it that nothing is clear. Here is one sentence from the official document: "Establishing the volumes of the spillage of petroleum products and the area of the spill and the presence of oil accumulations on the shores of the Us and Kolva rivers and their tributaries and streams has proved to be impossible because of the snow mantle and the shore ice at the water's edge."

Nonetheless, the quantity of oil spilled is quoted in the document. Where does the figure come from? The report states "from primary sources" (read—on the basis of the Komineft joint-stock company figures). That is, it cites the figure of 14,000 tonnes, which the majority of experts now ridicule.

And, most ridiculous of all, the commission has even drawn a conclusion. We read, retaining the vocabulary and phrasing of the original: "The helicopter survey of the territory of the damaged section of the pipeline and the figures and calculations cited by the staff for the abolition of the accident and by other organizations regarding the oil spilled during the accident give grounds for considering the foreign press reports on the scale of the accident and the connected degree of environmental danger to be unjustified." That is, we did not see the oil, we do not know what was there, but the Western hacks are guilty of libel (there is no mention of Russian hacks....)

Nonetheless, there are more questions with every passing day. Last Friday, according to ITAR-TASS, Viktor Kostin, Russian deputy minister for the environment and natural resources, stated that according to aerial photographs taken by Komineft and oil experts from the Russian-U.S. joint-stock company Nordeko the oil had spilled over a territory of 62 square kilometers to a depth of 3-40 centimeters. If you make some simple calculations taking even the minimum depth of 3 cm, then the result we get is that AT LEAST 900,000 TONNES OF OIL were spilled in Usinskiy Rayon!

Second, at any oilfield there are logs for recording the petroleum products which are being pumped through. If the Komineft joint-stock company did indeed want to hurt the insolent "greens" all it had to do was simply pick up the logs and point out: That is how much oil we put into the pipeline, that is how much we pumped through, that is how much is missing. A child could do it. Nonetheless, it was not done.

Komi Oil Spill To Be Cleared When Frozen By 'Winter Frosts'

LD0311101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0947 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 3 TASS—Russia is waiting for winter frosts [in order] to begin a large-scale operation in the marshy areas polluted by a major oil spill in the northern Komi Republic, according to Evgeniy Minayev, head of the Ecology Department of the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry.

He told TASS on Thursday that frozen oil will be collected by excavators and carried away by trucks. No special equipment will be necessary for a clean-up, according to local experts.

Minayev said that special hydroblocking devices had been delivered in time to the spill area, which decreased the possibility of polluting the Pechora River which flows into the Barentz Sea. He added that the oil, which was rich in paraffin, loses its fluidity at 15°C. This helped to stop the spreading of the spill.

However, earlier, Russian ecologists said that oil had already got into the Pechora River. According to various estimates, the spill ranges from 14,000 to 64,000, or even to 200,000, tonnes.

Minayev said that the Komineft [Joint-Stock] Company, which is responsible for it, is now concentrating machinery and equipment in the area for clean-up work in winter.

The consequences of the spill are to be eliminated by next April.

Komi Republic Denies Greenpeace Claims of New Oil Spill

LD0811154894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1531 GMT 8 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 8 TASS—A Greenpeace official said on Tuesday that an oil spill in Russia's northern region of Komi is an "ecological catastrophe."

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow today, Paul Horsman, Greenpeace oil coordinator, described the incident as a "major oil disaster caused by oil companies who refused to stop pumping their oil down a pipeline they know is following apart." "It's an ecological catastrophe," said Horsman. "The pipeline must be shut down permanently."

He believes that not only Russian, but also foreign companies operating the pipeline should take part in the clean-up efforts.

In its report issued on November 6, Greenpeace said that "at least another 13,000 tonnes of oil has spilled onto the Russian tundra in the past 48 hours from a major new rupture in the oil pipeline in Russia's Arctic Komi region near Usinsk."

"The new spill about 60 kilometers north of the town of Usinsk, near Khata-Yaga, has been set alight and oil lakes and a two-kilometer stream of oil is burning in the northern tundra," Greenpeace Paul Horsman said. Lakes of oil 60 centimeters deep were flowing into a stream almost two meters deep, black smoke filled the sky.

However, the Komi Republic's Department for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters and Usinsk-termneft said that the burning oil Greenpeace referred to in its November 6 press release was the oil spilled from the oil pipeline in August 1994. It was set alight on November 4 as part of the repairs being done on the pipeline. They also said that the pumping of oil from the north was stopped at 1900 on November 3. No new incident or oil spill has occurred on the pipeline since then, Komi officials said.

An official Russian delegation of St. Petersburg experts flew over the area last week and reported no more leaks.

However, as Eduard Gismattulin of Greenpeace Russia said, "If they had bothered to get closer to the pipe than just flying over it, they would have seen the leaks, and might have been able to prevent the spill."

He called on the Russian authorities to lift their blanket of secrecy to allow an international team of experts and equipment into the area immediately.

According to official statistics, the pipeline started leaking through 23 different holes in early August. The mayor of Usinsk asked the oil companies to stop pumping oil, but they refused. The pipeline was finally shut down for 10 days in September, when repairs were carried out on a small section of the pipeline. After that it resumed operation, but only for a week. On September 27 the dams built to stop the flow of oil burst as a result of heavy rains, causing the spill reported early last week.

Komi Pipeline Said 'Full of Holes'; Oil Constantly Leaking

LD0811143594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1252 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Video report by correspondent Lana Gorbunova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was an ITAR-TASS report today on a statement by Yuriy Yemelyanov, head of the expedition that carried out an analysis of the Usinsk disaster situation. The statement said that no new oil spills have been found. Experts believe that the Greenpeace activists mistook the technical procedure of destroying oil in an old, damaged section of the pipeline for a new, burning oil spill.

There is no big difference whether it is the old or the new parts of the pipeline—the pipeline, which has not had any repairs from the time it was laid down 20 years ago, is as full of holes as a piece of lace. These spills happen all the time.

Activists of the "Save the Pechora" movement are indignant at the behavior of the local authorities. Its president has come to Moscow especially to participate in a news conference. [video shows unidentified person addressing news conference]

[Unidentified person] It is known that the population of settlements and villages along the Pechora [river] lived from times immemorial by hunting and fishing. Today these traditional forms of economic activity can no longer support the population. People have simply been deprived

of these forms of economic activity. There are no animals to hunt and no fish in the river. Besides, the population always engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry to a certain extent. Today the local population is deprived of this possibility because all the meadows and pastures are covered in oil. Last spring, according to the records of members of our movement living in those areas, in settlements and villages along the Pechora, oil has been leaking into the Pechora systematically in recent years, even without accidents on such a scale, after so-called everyday, small accidents. For instance, last spring oil floated down the Pechora river over a period of 17 days after the thawing of the ice, and this fact was recorded by our members. [video shows oil pouring out of a pipeline, an excavator at work, oil seeping up through the soil, oil burning on the ground, and person addressing news conference]

Proposed Space AES Would Beam Energy to Earth by Laser

MM3110142194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 28 Oct 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Nuclear Electric Nuclear Power Station in Space Will Be More Reliable Than One on the Ground"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A nuclear electric power station which will operate in outer space has been developed by a group of St. Petersburg scientists from the Atom i Chelovek [Atom and Man] science and production association. In the opinion of environmentalists, it is imperative right now to resolve the problem of protecting the environment against the excess heat which is given off during the operation of power stations and which could cause irreversible changes on our planet. The scientists propose placing some electric power stations in space. The nuclear electric power station model developed will transfer its energy from orbit by means of a laser beam.

Results of Sunken Sub's Inspection Viewed

MM2110121594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Oct 94 p 4

[Article by Anatoliy Profatilov under the "Ecology" rubric: "Nuclear Submarine Has Not Been Raised, But Several Questions Have"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The fifth expedition to the wreck of the submarine Komsomolets in the Norwegian Sea, organized by the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters, with the participation of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology, the "Rubin" MT Central Design Bureau, and a number of competent scientific organizations, ended in August. [passage omitted]

The aim of the 1994 expedition was to prevent plutonium from escaping from the nuclear submarine into the marine environment, and the tasks were as follows: sealing the torpedo tubes and the bow of the nuclear submarine; determining the extent of the work to be carried out in 1995-1996 to seal the nuclear submarine (stage two involves ensuring it is sealed "once and for all"); carrying out extensive oceanological, biological, ecological, and

radiation studies in the area. It was also essential to ascertain the whereabouts of the rescue chamber and, most important, examine the rescue chamber and correct the errors as a result of which they failed to raise the chamber during the 1993 expedition. To tackle these tasks the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters (main contractor) arranged contracts with certain scientific and production organizations: the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, "Rubin" MT Central Design Bureau, A.N. Krylov Central Scientific Research Institute, the "Kurchatov Institute" RNTs, the "V.G. Khlopin Radium Institute" Science and Production Association, the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Experimental Physics (Arzamas-16), and others.

The main tasks were carried out with the help of the Mir-1 and Mir-2 submersibles (made in Finland on order from the USSR Academy of Sciences) carried by the Russian Academy of Sciences' scientific research ship Akademik Mstislav Keldysh and by the oceanographic research ship Semen Dezhnev. The Mir submersibles have been further equipped with radiation monitoring apparatus (alpha radiation gradiometers) developed by the "Kurchatov Institute" RNTs and the Miniature Long-Term Oceanological Observation Station of the Institute of Oceanology containing microelectronic sensors to monitor the speed of the natural current and the temperature and salinity of the water near the bottom, and so on. There were 18 (nine pairs) dives. With the help of the submersibles' robot arms the crews were able to plug nine holes in the submarine's bow, six of which are torpedo tube cutwater shield apertures.

It is the first time underwater technical work has been carried out by robot arms in deep ocean water (around 1,700 meters) on an object posing a potential radiation threat. The closure of the aforementioned holes enabled them effectively to stop the water flowing through the submarine's bow section and thus reduce the likelihood and potential intensity of an escape of radioisotopes and plutonium corrosion products from the nuclear warheads. During the dives a careful examination was made of the damage to the submarine's outer and inner hulls and of the internal structure of the boat's forward section, as a basis for the work schedule for stage two to put paid to the radiation threat to the marine environment once and for all.

One of the pair of dives was to examine the rescue chamber with a view to its being raised in the future. There should be several dead seamen in the chamber together with technical documents that might provide details of the disaster that struck the nuclear submarine in April 1989. Miniature stations on the seabed were also used to conduct a series of hydrophysical studies of the water structure, which are of fundamental importance for the future creation of an international ocean data bank.

Biological studies to determine possible radioactivity migration routes from objects through the "deep-water phytoplankton—fish—human beings" food chain are important for understanding the interaction between ocean and man and for the formation of the noosphere.

The preliminary results of this expedition and their rapid analysis have made possible a number of conclusions.

The measured concentrations before and after work to "suppress" the isotope composition of the plutonium and radionuclides from the nuclear power plant in the water samples, suspended matter, and sediment indicate that there has been no marked change in the radiation situation in the vicinity of the stricken submarine, but further sealing of the submarine (with full sealing of the bow section) is required, together with regular operational ecological monitoring.

Broader and more thorough scientific research is needed, along with systematic action to render the deep-water nuclear contamination of the ocean harmless, on the one hand, and to make effective use of those same nuclear contaminants, on the other hand. And this research should be carried out right now, looking ahead to the 21st century—the century of the practical introduction of information science and of the noosphere (the latter according to V.I. Vernadsky).

The discovery of the vertical displacement ("upwelling") of phytoplankton from the water near the bottom to the "fishing" water near the surface in northern waters refuted earlier views and showed that the oceanological research of the USSR Academy of Sciences had been "wrong" and selective.

The Russian Defense Ministry Main Ecology Administration has a vast amount of work (both in the professional and in the moral and psychological spheres) to do in the future, both in the area of developing a database on potential maritime theaters of hostilities and (more challenging and realistically more important) in the area of systematic research to assess the effectiveness of the use of powerful weapon delivery vehicles, in view of the mentality of our society.

A special administrative organ ("KOPRON" State Committee, now a Ministry for Emergencies structure) needs to be established to implement long-term tasks, but it will only operate effectively as a power structure if an atmosphere of creativity is generated.

Toxic Waste Processing Plant Planned for St. Petersburg

MM2010133194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 94 p 1

[Report from "Inform" column: "Living Will Become Cleaner"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The construction of a fundamentally new plant for processing toxic industrial waste is planned near St. Petersburg. Previously, "harmful garbage" was brought in from the entire city to a special site in Krasnyy Bor, where over 1.5 million tonnes of toxic minerals have now accumulated.

The plant's construction will hardly be able to resolve this problem instantly since the plant's planned turnover is just 100,000 tonnes a year. Nonetheless, it is not out of the question that this waste will not only be rendered harmless but will even be reprocessed into valuable raw material.

Greenpeace on 'Ecological Danger' of Russian Nuclear Fleet

LD2710222394 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1928 GMT 27 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—Pacific operations of the Russian nuclear fleet are an ecological danger of an unknown scale to non-nuclear nations, says the report issued today by the international environmental organisation Greenpeace.

The report in particular describes the 20-year-long practice of the former Soviet nuclear fleet to transport highly radioactive materials—exhausted reactor fuel of Kamchatka-based submarines—to a Vladivostok-adjacent region. The transportation used old, technologically unsafe ships. The report states that at least four nuclear submarines were deactivated in 1979-1986 because of serious accidents.

The report is supplemented by a list of nuclear submarine accidents for the years 1956-1994. A total of 140 accidents is cited, including 30 radiation and eight sinking accidents. The disasters killed more than 500 seamen, the report says.

The report also addresses submarine dismantling practices. While previous estimates projected the dismantling of 150 submarines by 2000, the latest update suggest the need for scrapping about 200 submarines.

The Russian navy is already having difficulties unloading fuel from reactors of these submarines. Some submarines with fuel in their reactors are prone to sinking in docks. These problems may worsen with time. Large-scale dismantling might reduce the Russian submarine fleet to 50 vessels by 2000, while the United States intends to have 60 nuclear submarines by the end of the century.

Destruction of Chemical Weapons on Schedule 'Doubtful'

MM0311105594 Moscow *Russian Television Network in Russian* 2000 GMT 1 Nov 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Saratov Oblast chemical weapons facility by I. Deryugin and Ye. Gerasimenko, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [201343] [Deryugin over video large number of barrels in a store] In accordance with international agreements, Russia is to destroy 40,000 tonnes of toxins. Some 1,200 tonnes of the blister agents yperite and lewisite are kept at this arsenal near the village of Gornyy in Saratov Oblast. They have been stored here in containers for more than 30 years. The substances, which come under the UN convention on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons, essentially lost their strategic significance long ago and are now much more of an environmental problem.

The government draft program on the destruction of chemical weapons makes provision for the construction of terminals for recycling the toxins at Gornyy and at a

similar storage facility at Kamtarka in Udmurtia. The absence of a legislative basis safeguarding the legal framework of this process, and of funds for the elaboration of technologies which for the time being exist only at the laboratory stage, make it doubtful, in the opinion of many experts, that Russia will be able to destroy the chemical weapons it produced earlier within the set deadlines and observing essential environmental safety requirements. [video shows large number of barrels in a store being checked by men in gas masks, exterior of facility, village scenes, men working on large containers, men in gas masks operating cranes]

Ecological Control Points Monitor Railroad Operations

95WN0026A Moscow *GUDOK in Russian* 1 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by correspondent N. Bastrykin: "So Diesel Locomotives Wouldn't Smoke: Notes From a Conference of Network Ecologists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The air we breathe has become harmful to human health. Thus in Rostov-on-Don, industrial enterprises release 30,000 tonnes into the atmosphere. Another 150,000 tonnes of carbon monoxide and carcinogens are added by motor vehicles and by diesel-switching locomotives working within the city limits. A certain share of the blame belongs to the North Caucasus Railroad for invasion of diesel locomotives into the ecosystem of the Azov and Black Sea basins and the Caucasian Mineralnyye Vody health resort complex. To be specific, diesel locomotives operating in the region contribute 6 percent of the toxins released into the atmosphere. As compensation for this the railroad pays huge sums to territorial bodies of the Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The way to prevent or reduce harmful effects upon nature was the topic of discussion at a network conference of ecologists held in Rostov-on-Don. The chief engineers of the railroad locomotive management services and scientists of scientific research institutes and VUZes [higher educational institutions] of Russia and Ukraine dealing with the problems of environmental protection were invited to it.

What useful things did guests of the North Caucasus Railroad learn? In the locomotive depot of Bataysk, for example, they acquainted themselves with the work of an ecological control point (PEK). It isn't the only one on the railroad, by the way. Similar ones are also in Mineralnyye Vody, Salsk, Morozovskaya and Svetlograd. Their chief merit is that diesel locomotives operating there have started polluting the atmosphere much less. But ecological control is useful in more ways than that: It also promotes better technical maintenance of locomotives. Participants of the network conference heard about this from a practical worker—Bataysk depot chief process engineer V. Forostyan:

"We started devoting more attention to the condition of the diesel engines of the locomotives," he said. "A possibility appeared for earlier diagnosis of engine faults. For example trouble once began in a turbo-compressor. They don't have an effect on the work of the engine as a whole,

but the level of soot in the exhaust rises. That's already a signal: repairs are needed. Besides early diagnosis, we hope to determine the mutual relationship between the smoke level and particular faults."

In addition, the procedure of ecological inspection of locomotive diesel engines at a PEK helps to eliminate the causes of air pollution, and makes it possible to reveal oversights of designers and diesel locomotive builders, and to develop recommendations for domestic instrument-making. And it gives operators the possibility for adjusting fuel apparatus properly in the course of rheostat tests.

And so, the North Caucasus Railroad is the base enterprise for solving the problems of ecological improvement of the environment. The decision regarding this was made by the board of the Russian Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, and it was supported by the board of the Ministry of Railways. And the railroad immediately came to sense the economic priorities when making settlements for nature use. While in the past the railroad's outlays as a major environmental polluter were determined arithmetically (from the quantity of fuel expended for train traction), now in connection with the fact that ecological control has been introduced at five diesel locomotive depots the amounts of the payments are reckoned on the basis of actual releases by the locomotives. The savings for the North Caucasus Railroad as a whole are reckoned in the billions of rubles.

Unfortunately, the chiefs of the locomotive depot and stations using the diesel locomotives sometimes have to sweat blood to get preferential rates from territorial agencies of the nature ministry. Depot directors who adopt the experience of the North Caucasus Railroad for themselves may find themselves in the same situation. The fact is that in the measures foreseen in the sector program "Ecology and Environmental Protection in 1991-1995" for reducing the negative influence of toxic releases into the atmosphere, its authors did not account for all of the details. The nature ministry offered the railroaders the chance to do so, recommending to the Ministry of Railways that it improve the mechanism for controlling the releases of diesel locomotives and the mechanism of paying nature use fees.

In the meantime, the local environmental protection committees collect fees from transportation enterprises for nature use according to the old procedure. This means additional payments from the coffers of the railroads.

Participants of the network conference were shown the operation of an experimental gas analyzer that has proven itself at the PEK of the Bataysk locomotive depot. Its merits include simple operation and the possibility for determining five pollution components all at once. Note that the procedures and standards of the computerized gas analyzers that were tested at the PEK in Bataysk are an order of magnitude above those of instruments recommended by the nature ministry.

No less interesting was information about what the ecological control points have given to those who worked on their establishment and who are continuing the research. Here is what ecological inspector N. Zhukova of the North Caucasus Railroad's ecological service said:

"The materials we obtained made it possible to improve the procedures of ecological standardization of the air. We have specific recommendations on determining the concentration of toxic substances in diesel locomotive exhaust. A possibility appeared for utilizing a number of instruments developed by the Kharkov sector diesel engine laboratory, particularly fuel consumption gauges. At the moment this is the only instrument in the country making it possible to determine fuel consumption from the actual load on a diesel engine. A number of converted commercial enterprises have already come to us about it, offering their apparatus for expert examination at ecological control points. In short, the PEKs of the North Caucasus Railroad are opening up a large market for developers of ecological apparatus, both here in Russia and in CIS countries."

The participants of the conference expressed the hope that the Main Administration of Locomotive Management of the Ministry of Railways and the railroad chiefs will find a possibility for allocating resources to continue the work that has been started when drawing up the plans for scientific research and experimental design developments for the next year.

Scientists Invent Method To Clean Up Radioactive Waste

LD1011145894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1405 GMT 10 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok November 10 TASS—"The problem of utilizing liquid radioactive waste (LRW) in the Maritime Territory can be resolved without foreign firms on the basis of Russian technologies," Valentin Sergienko, d.Sc. (chemistry), deputy chairman of the Far Eastern branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday.

He headed a group of researchers who developed a unique knowhow to utilize LRW by sorption cleaning. The invention won one of the first prizes at the Moscow International Conference on Environmental Technologies this year.

However, local authorities are indifferent to the Russian project and are ready to give preference to foreign development studies. An international tender is in progress now to build capacities in the territory to store and process LRW. Most of its participants are Japanese firms.

The government of that country is ready to pay all possible outlays to erect such a project in the Russian Far East.

"Authorities, in pursuit for cheapness, do not take into account outlays for the operation of the installation," Sergienko said.

"The Japanese unit will consume much electricity, since Japanese equipment is based on the principle of evaporating nuclide admixtures from contaminated water. Our technology is based on chemical cleaning.

"Our unit can process 500 litres of LRW per hour, and the degree of purification is four times higher than all standards," the researcher stressed.

According to Sergienko, the implementation of his project will cost no more than \$40,000 or \$50,000. But evidently there will be no people in Russia wishing to translate into life the scholar's project.

Bureaucrats are not convinced even by the fact that the well-known American company Babcock Wilcox, specialising in the production of ecology-saving technologies, is ready to buy immediately the development study of the Far Eastern researcher.

ESTONIA

Tarand Holds News Conference on Environmental Achievements

*WS0111104494 Tallinn ETA in English
0745 GMT 1 Nov 94*

[From 1 November EESTI SONUMID, POSTIMEES, RAHVA HAAL, p 1,3; "News Bulletin" No.212/94]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuesday, November 1—Environment minister and prime ministerial candidate Andres Tarand held a news conference yesterday on his achievements in the past two years.

A number of changes were made in the environment protection services, particularly concerning natural resources. Another important sphere is the monitoring of environment and plans for future. Tarand also stressed the importance of foreign relations and the backwardness in information.

Foreign aid in environment protection has been mostly directed into concrete projects, plus consultations and training. The minister enumerated some failings of the ministry, primarily the inadequate cooperation with other departments. The change of the forms of ownership has also conflicted with environmental protection. The present environment monitoring and control system is hardly adequate, but the budget does not allow more.

The minister pointed out the situation in Kunda as an example of an agreement between the state, local government and an enterprise. Dealing with the pollution of the Baltic Sea is a matter of honour, while the pollution caused by the Soviet/Russian military is a problem for the next hundred years, he said.

The Environment Ministry has submitted seven draft laws within the nine months of 1994, five of them were passed, and 13 government resolutions. The minister has issued 43 resolutions in his department.

Tarand also discussed his possible successor, mentioning the name of "Right-wing" MP Vootele Hansen. Moderate MP Aldo Tamm could be Agriculture Minister, he added. "Right-wing" faction chairwoman Karin Jaani commented that the excessive demands of the "Fatherland" faction may force Tarand to reject the participation of both "Fatherland" and "Right-wing" members and to rely on the Moderates and the Liberals instead. The "Fatherland" has been claiming the portfolios of foreign, justice and interior ministers.

Tarand is to present his cabinet to the president on Thursday.

LATVIA

World Bank To Lend Funds for Environment Protection

*WS0111115494 Riga LETA in English
1033 GMT 1 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, November 1 LETA—On Monday, October 31, the economy and finance committee of the cabinet recommended that the government accept the agreement between the cabinet and the World Bank. Under this agreement the World Bank will lend Latvia 2.2 million lats for environmental protection of the coastal lands of the Baltic Sea. The reconstruction plan of the water supply network and sewage treatment plant of Liepaja has been completed. The cost of this work for the 1995-99 period will be about 11.6 million lats. It was also recommended that the government adopt regulations exempting free foreign aid shipments from customs duties and sales tax.

There have also been changes in the domestic market of tobacco products. Eighty-three licenses for the wholesale distribution of tobacco products have been granted and fifteen licenses for the import of tobacco and its products have been granted. Of the almost 33 million tobacco duty stamps, to be affixed to retail packages, sold by October 25, some 18 million were bought by House of Prince Riga. Since the introduction of the requirement that all tobacco products bear the government duty stamp, revenues from the tax on tobacco have increased from August by 13,737 lats to 201,725 lats in September.

UKRAINE

Green Party Emerging as President Kuchma's Opposition

*WS3110125094 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0608 GMT 29 Oct 94*

[Commentary by Volodymyr Katzman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma's recent speech to parliament, so unanimously supported by different levels of Ukrainian society, contained a principal provision that the Ukrainian parliament had never heard before. The president not only declared that he had nothing against "the opposition," but he said he was ready to encourage and support the activities of opposition structures by passing legislation needed to do so.

One may want to raise a question at this point: what legislative regulations should be issued for "the opposition," when current legislation and juridical documents already stipulate the activities of parties, public organizations, and other structures? Can we really imagine that a new—even good—law would please the opposition to any extent, given that such a course of action implies that the opposition's activities would be guided by the advice of its opponent?

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But the passion for law-making exercises strays far from reality: a political opposition in Ukraine does exist and, moreover, it is trying to make itself known—even over the clamor of those who, during the presidential election campaign put spikes in Kuchma's wheel and are now singing in unison with the president. No, the armada of national-democrats and orthodox communists have not become yet the open opposition. The opposition today lies in the center of the political palette: the Green Party of Ukraine. The Green Party is the only party—though small in membership and in central structures—that if not severely then at least consistently criticizes Kuchma for his "technocratism and for his ignorance of social and humanitarian questions as the problems of paramount importance."

Such a position on the part of the Greens one might say was easy to predict: pacifists who had resolutely supported the former President Leonid Kravchuk's anti-nuclear initiatives could hardly take the side of the leading player of the former USSR military industrial complex, director of a missile plant and obvious supporter of the Ukrainian nuclear forces, Leonid Kuchma.

But, in fact, the personal experience and qualities of President Kuchma have nothing to do with their position. The leader of the Green Party of Ukraine, Vitaliy Kononov, stems his opposition to the president in the belief that the latter should have paid much more attention to the constitutional process in Ukraine from the start of his term in office. It is known that the Green Party played an active role, in that "the splendid seven" (the Green Party of Ukraine, the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine, the Party of Social Justice of Ukraine, the Constitutional-Democratic Party, the Liberal-Democratic Party, Social-Democratic Party of Ukraine and Ukrainian Party of Justice) for one full year non-stop kept on appealing to Ukrainian officials to convene a constitutional assembly and authorize it to work out and adopt a constitution for Ukraine.

"For three years a European country—Ukraine—exists without a constitution," Kononov said recently. "Sometimes I think the whole world amuses itself at that fact. In the meantime, the 'red' parliament again and again manages to talk the president into establishing constitutional committees, which have absolutely no prospects to solve the matter, in our point of view. It is all gibberish," he said. "Today's parliament will never be able to adopt a really progressive constitution. How can the president be unaware of that fact?" he asked.

While one should note that, for the first hundred days of his presidency, Kuchma did not present much ground on which to be severely criticized either by the Left or the Right, a distinctive feature of the Greens is that they do not limit their activity to criticism only. The Greens are working with others who agree with their position to lobby their views. The Constitutional Democrats and some five other political parties also believe the only way out of the current crises in Ukraine is the introduction of the mechanism of the Constituent Assembly—the election and convention of recognized members of a focused group to work out and adopt a new Ukrainian constitution. With the Greens, this inter-party group has recently taken the

decision to launch a campaign to collect signatures in support of a Ukrainian referendum on two questions: Do you agree that adoption of a new constitution is the question of paramount importance for Ukrainian society? Do you agree that the constitution ought to be worked out and adopted by a constitutional assembly?

Kuchma's extended hand to the opposition has not meant much. Kononov still reproaches the president with his unwillingness to meet the needs of Ukrainian parties. Ukraine by many definitions simply cannot yet claim political pluralism as a feature. Only the Leftists are ideologically strong and well organized. The rest of Ukraine's parties lack funds, organizational structures (especially in the regions) and—what is most regretful—active members. Here, even considerably small assistance from the state would be most welcomed, if only the president really wanted to build a democratic society in Ukraine.

UZBEKISTAN

Official Reports on Ecological Situation

LD0611152194 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA
in Russian 5 Nov 94 p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Grigoryevich Konyukhov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee on Nature of the Republic of Uzbekistan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Accidents That Can Be Avoided

Correspondent: How many ecological tension points are there in the republic?

Konyukhov: We define ecological tension points according to the degree of potential danger they represent to human life and the environment, including animals and plants. Over 200 enterprises in the chemical, metals, oil and gas extraction, and food industries were defined as such in an inventory that was drawn up in a process conducted throughout Uzbekistan. Sites formerly used as agricultural crop-spraying airstrips, where there were remains of pesticides and packaging, were included on the inventory, as were agricultural chemicals depots stocking pesticides that had passed their expiry date.

During the process of drawing up the inventory, the State Committee for Nature inspectors checked industrial waste storage sites. Practically all of them are sealed defectively, and harmful substances are leaking out. A tailings storage dump near Zarafshan is built on tectonic rifts. The radius of the pollution is gradually approaching the water collection point of a neighboring settlement. The slurry pits of enterprises in Navoi are polluting the subsoil waters with copper, hydrocarbons, and a number of other substances. A burial site for poisonous substances that is completely exposed to the elements has been discovered in the same area.

At present, the State Committee for Nature is allocating 100,000 soms to survey tailings storage dumps located along the banks of the Mayluu Suu River. Many people are

calling for reinforcement of the dikes and technical measures to strengthen slopes where there is a danger of landslides.

Correspondent: How do the accident statistics look?

Konyukhov: Several dozen have been recorded in recent years. The press, including PRAVDA VOSTOKA, has reported many of them. Effluents from the Kattakurgan oil and fat industrial complex broke through a dike and got into the Zarafshan River. The river was harmed and residents of Navoi had no potable water for some time. Another accident happened at a railway station when tankers containing chlorine burst. Similar accidents took place in Angren and Bukhara. This year's statistics have been expanded by two explosions and fires at gas pipelines in the Khorezm and Navoi regions.

Accidents happen because of obsolete and obsolescent equipment, the lack of monitoring and measuring instruments and of warning and shutdown systems, disregard for the storage and transport regulations, and poorly qualified service staff. We have seen cases where the risk of accidents has been created by overstocking. Some enterprises producing dangerous chemicals cannot sell them. Other consumers stock up superfluous amounts.

Correspondent: How can accidents be prevented?

Konyukhov: Work in this area has also been done in the past. Work at facilities has been stopped, the guilty have been fined, files have been submitted to the prosecutor's office, recommendations have been worked out, and demands have been made for these to be implemented. By the end of this year, we will have prepared a republican program on eliminating ecological tension points. This envisages the replacement of chlorine by ozone at the Vodokanal facilities and work to maintain ecological safety at tailings storage sites and waste dumps belonging to Uzalmazzoloto. [Uzbek diamond and gold corporation]. As for the troublesome tailings dump near Zarafshan that I have mentioned, it will be closed within the next two years. A new one is scheduled to be constructed elsewhere taking ecological requirements into account.

All ecologically dangerous sites are now being monitored by the state monitoring and analysis inspectorate of the State Committee for Nature. A system has been put in place for notification and action in case of accidents. The inspectorate is upgrading its equipment. It has obtained unique equipment from Switzerland that can be used in field conditions. We hope to receive equipment from Japan by the end of the year. [passage omitted]

Correspondent: Most hitches involving nature occur because of the incorrect siting of facilities. Several years ago one such facility, the Novokokand chemical plant, was closed. It was sited on the Sokh freshwater source, which is unique in quality and capacity. At the time, people said that constructing the plant was an example of the command-administrative type of decision.

Konyukhov: There is another example dating from that period that causes alarm: the Tashkent Motor Works. It is located on the flood plain of the Chirchik River. It was

planned to supply it with gas. Today the plant, which changed its production profile even before it was launched, is fighting against subsidence. However, that is the private problem of the Uzbek-Italian joint venture that is refitting the enterprise. The ecological threat to the Chirchik River comes from a fuel oil storage dump, the first tank of which has already been filled up. Our city committee ordered the oil dump to be eliminated. Gas is a valuable non-regenerating raw material, and it is not desirable to burn it in furnaces. Given the situation at the motor plant, however, there is no alternative to gas. Fuel oil facilities should be moved away from the river.

Correspondent: This ecological tension point appeared because the ecologists' ideas were ignored. How are new sites being sited now?

Konyukhov: In previous years when the site plans were being drawn up for production units, no one agreed them with ecologists. I think that we will avoid such mistakes in the future. Through the creation of the State Committee for Nature, ecologists have acquired the right to veto ecologically unsound projects. We have reached agreement with the banks that construction work should be halted if no ecological study has been carried out. It works in many cases. For example, we have halted the construction of a fuel oil dump at the Syrdarya District Power Station, and we have reduced the Sokh water reservoir from a large one to a small one. There are many examples where the ecological interest has prevailed.

Correspondent: Are there any exceptions to the rule?

Konyukhov: We were pretty much railroaded along during the installation of the seventh generating unit at the Novoangren district power station. They are building the second phase of the power station without having obtained ecological conclusions. We halted the funding several times. The State Committee for Nature heard explanatory reports from planners at Teploelektroproyekt [heat and electricity planning organization] and the Ministry of Power and Electrification. As a result, the ecological part of the project is being worked out, even if after something of a delay. The extent of the environmental effects is under assessment.

Correspondent: So one cannot do anything without an ecological study?

Konyukhov: Many heads of large enterprises, concerns, and corporations have grasped this. Construction of a Kyzylkum phosphorite enterprise is in preparation, and we have been working together literally from the word go. Another apparently small site, a new zoo, is now at the planning stage. However, the planners from Tashgiprogor have come to us only now, when the planning process is fully under way. We cannot agree that the zoo should be located at the site they have chosen for it, in the Botanical Gardens. This is not just because the Botanical Gardens enjoys the status of a reserve under the Law on Protection of Nature and the Law on Specially Protected Territories. There is another reason. Five neighboring factories pump out 250 tonnes of various substances into the atmosphere

every year. There is also an LEP [electric power line], a railway, and a highway nearby. We have sent a letter of protest to Tashgiprogor.

Correspondent: Many different small and large joint ventures are being constructed. In Asaka, a car plant is being constructed in conjunction with South Korea's Daewoo company, a French firm is involved in building an oil refinery in Bukhara, and the Zarafshan-Newmont Uzbek-American joint venture is to extract gold from slag in the Kyzylkum Desert. What are the demands made on them?

Konyukhov: Their activity must not harm the republic's ecology. I am far from thinking that everything foreign is superior. All foreign projects need to be looked at very closely. We are now examining many projects involving foreign companies for the development of natural resource deposits. The Zarafshan-Newmont joint venture has not yet entirely passed its ecological study, and we will not give them the go ahead to start work until they meet our demands. The same can be said for other foreign projects. They must be guaranteed 100 percent.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

EU CO₂ Tax Being 'Quietly Buried'*95WE0024A Hamburg DIE WELT in German
20 Oct 94 p 6*

[Commentary by Heinz Heck: "The CO₂ Tax Is To Be Quietly Buried: Consumption Taxes on Nonrenewable Energy Sources Are New Goal of European Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to the commencement of the German presidency in Brussels, the Federal Republic announced that it would support the introduction of a CO₂-energy tax in the European Union [EU]. Now the only question that remains is how this spectacular plan can be as elegantly buried as possible.

Last week in Luxemburg the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) simply removed the topic from the agenda and relegated it to the December meeting. The Bundestag election in Germany was probably also a reason for this. Added to this, however, is the fact that, in a high-level ad hoc group of the EU convened especially for the purpose, "there are serious differences of opinion among the member states as to whether, on the basis of the guidelines recommendation of the commission, a separate CO₂-energy tax should be uniformly introduced by all member states as a community-wide taxation instrument."

On the other hand, the goal for the negotiations in December that is now emerging is to impose consumption taxes in the EU on all energy sources utilized as fuels (with the exception of renewable energy), and to harmonize these by means of minimum rates. According to the recommendation of the ad hoc group to the council, these [taxes] are to be increased in several steps from 1 July 1995 on, with the increased revenues to be offset by tax decreases elsewhere ("revenue-neutral structuring"). Considering the high level of energy taxes in Germany, this must not necessarily result in tax increases here in mid-1995.

The ever more frequently heard reference to the "far-reaching differences of opinion" (most recently by Finance Minister Waigel on Friday) in the EU only conceals the fact that Bonn as well is divided on this issue. Serious misgivings have long since gained the upper hand: in the program of the government adopted at the end of August, the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] and the CSU [Christian Social Union] did not include the demand for this tax, while the FDP [Free Democratic Party], at its party congress in Rostock, demanded that Germany even go it alone, if need be, in its introduction. If the SPD

[Social Democratic Party of Germany] had not just confined itself to looking forward to taking over the government but had instead achieved it, its designated finance minister Oskar Lafontaine would also have said no. The champion of an ecological tax reform called the tax "nonsense."

For Germany, particularly, this tax would present special difficulties, as Horst Schoeberle, head of the basic principles department in the Federal Finance Ministry, explained: "The introduction of a true energy tax, which would therefore have to apply to coal as well, would be ecologically consistent, to be sure, but it would be contrary to the energy policy goal of assuring an adequate supply through the use of native hard coal and lignite. On the other hand, the introduction of an energy tax without including coal would lead to the ecologically absurd situation in which an additional tax burden would be placed on CO₂-free nuclear energy, on hydroelectric power, and on solar energy, while the CO₂-containing coal would at the same time be spared."

In a report recently prepared for Greenpeace, the German Institute for Economic Research concluded "that an ecologically effective energy tax, if appropriately organized, is definitely also possible on a go-it-alone national scale without impairing growth and employment."

While the institute triggered euphoric reactions among those favoring this course, a sobering-up process has since set in. The scientific field across the board views the tax either with skepticism or it rejects it outright. In view of the high German standard in the utilization of energy and in protecting the environment, moves by industries to other countries would cause not only losses of jobs and incomes on a national scale, but also energy and environmental losses globally.

The oil and natural gas-exporting countries would view our tax explosion as a "forced expropriation" and would resist it by raising prices. Professor Dieter Schmitt of the University of Essen: "The structuring of the relationship with the producing countries would of necessity be adversely affected."

In the spring of 1995, in year 3 after Rio de Janeiro, therefore, the CO₂ reduction will again be on the international agenda at the 1st Treaty Signatories Conference of the Climatic Protection Convention in Berlin. In the time remaining until that conference begins, convincing strategies ought to be worked out.

A crass tax increase should not be one of them. Let us bear in mind: The last increase in the tax on oil by 16 Pfennig per liter has about the same effect as a doubling of the crude oil price on the world market—but not internationally but limited just to Germany. Does anyone really believe that this can be repeated whenever we like?

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